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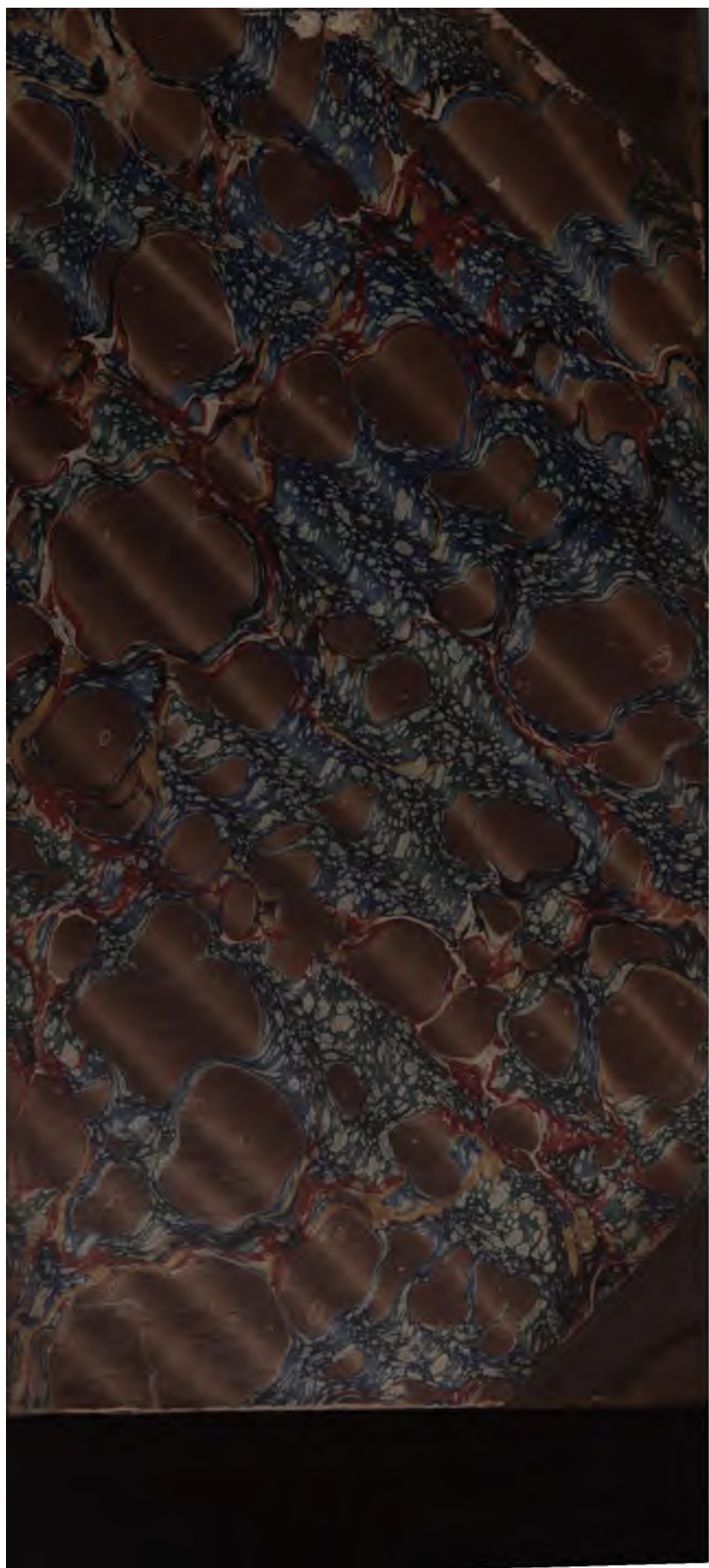
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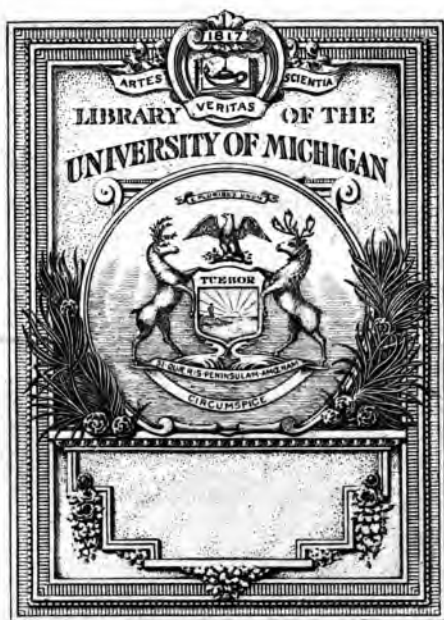
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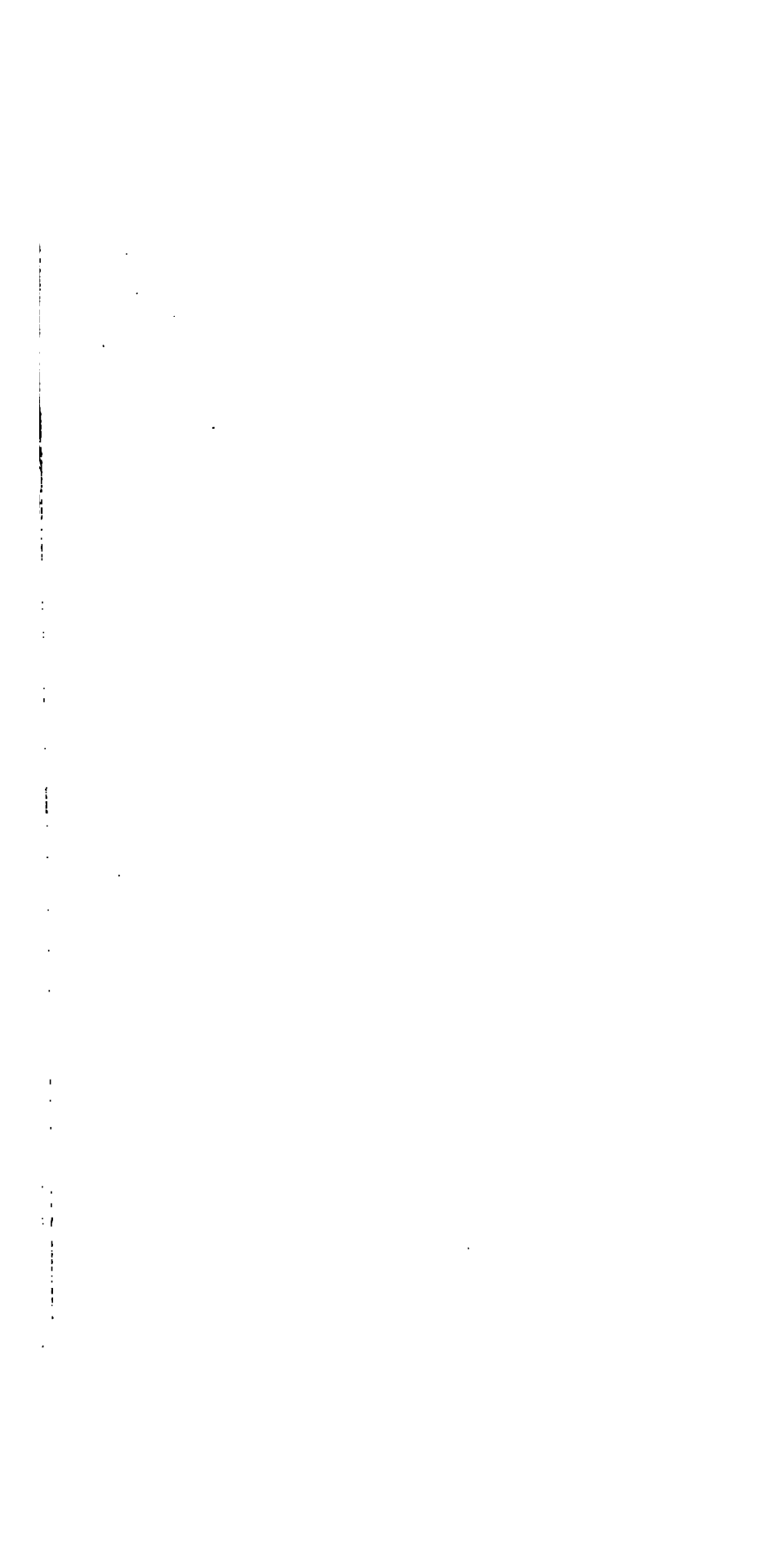






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*with Mr.
comp,*

A
REPLY TO A PAPER,
CIRCULATED
UNDER THE NAME OF
THE LORD BISHOP OF LINCOLN.



A
REPLY TO A PAPER,
CIRCULATED
UNDER THE NAME OF THE
LORD BISHOP OF LINCOLN:

THE OBJECT OF WHICH
TO COUNTERACT A VERDICT
IN AN ACTION
BROUGHT BY THOMAS MEADE, ESQ;
AGAINST THE
REV. CHARLES DAUBENY,

*Before Lord Kenyon, and a Special Jury, in the
Court of King's-Bench, in June 1792.*

BY THOMAS MEADE.

“ Qui post semel inventam veritatem, aliud querit, menda-
“ cium querit, non veritatem.”

CONCIL. CHALCED. Act. 3. quoted by
JEWEL, Bishop of Salisbury.

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PREFACE.

THE contents of this pamphlet are divided, for the convenience of the reader, into separate parts.

The *first* contains a history of the subject in question, together with a vindication of the verdict, and of the testimony of Mrs. Meade, in opposition to the “*endeavours*”* of the Bishop of Lincoln to counteract the one, and to falsify the other.

To this is added an Appendix, containing, under letter (A.), a short account of the efforts made by the different parties to promote, and to prevent, family reconciliation.

Under letter (B.) is a short but important correspondence between the Rev. Dr. Blayney and the Rev. Mr. Daubeney, on the subject of reconciliation.

* See his Lordship's paper in the Appendix.

Under (C.) are given the letters of William Stevens, esq; on the same subject, in reply to Mr. Daubeny's application to him, which is also given. In this part will be found an account of Mrs. Meade's interview with her mother, which the reader will naturally compare with the account given of it by the Bishop of Lincoln.

Under (D.) is a short history of the Bishop of Durham's interference, which the reader will also compare with the Bishop of Lincoln's representations of it.

Under (E.) is Mrs. Meade's correspondence with Mr. Daubeny, after he had acquainted her with the death of her mother, and the disposition of her fortune.

Under (F.) is given, verbatim, a copy of the Bishop of Lincoln's manuscript as sent by his Lordship to Mr. Meade.

And under (G.) is Mr. Meade's correspondence with his Lordship previous to this publication.

The affront offered to Mrs. Meade, which is the subject of this pamphlet, was of such

a nature, that Mr. Meade confesses he was at a loss how to proceed. He therefore consulted with those whom he thought competent to give him sound and temperate advice; and he has also waited, not only to subdue, as far as he could, any sentiments of irritation, but likewise to see clearly what steps his opponents proposed to take; that by them he might be guided in his measures to repel the attack. And finding that copies of the Bishop's manuscript are multiplied, and extensively circulated in public and private with incredible industry, Mr. Meade has determined that his defence shall keep pace with the injury, that the antidote may at least follow the poison. And he trusts with confidence that there will be, and can be, but one opinion on the subject among dispassionate readers.

As a retired individual, Mr. Meade would apologize for carrying the subject of his own private concerns beyond the circle of his immediate connexions: But he persuades himself, and he is supported in that persua-

tion by *very high authority*, that his cause will be considered not unimportant in a more general view, as involving in it the interests of humanity and the security and protection of the laws themselves.

The Reader is requested to make the following Corrections.

Page 12, l. 1, dele *about*.

14, l. 15, for the paper, read *his paper*.

27, in the notes, for See Appendix, read *See page 71*.

28, in the notes, for See Appendix, read *See page 66*.

30, in the notes, for See Appendix, read *See page 73*.

45, l. 16, after father put a *comma* only.

47, l. 13, for her, read *Mr. Meade*.

76, l. 17, for means read *mean*.

219, l. 9 from the bottom, for taking, read *to take*.

265, in the note, for twenty, read *sixteen*.

A

REPLY to a PAPER, &c.



THE writer of the following pages is fully conscious in how uninteresting a light appeals on the subject of family differences are regarded by the public. However the review of such disputes may gratify the ill-nature of some, or the officiousness of others, few feel much concern in the subject, and frequently pronounce both parties wrong, rather than take the trouble of an accurate examination into the merits of the cause.

Notwithstanding these discouragements, the writer of this pamphlet has ventured to give a statement, the facts contained in which he is prepared to verify by incontestable evidence; and once more to appeal to the justice of mankind against the assertions, or insinuations, or by whatever other names the arrows of calumny may be marked, which have been again so wantonly aimed at the reputation and moral character of the person most dear to him. He must confess himself also to be influenced by a motive not less powerful than the foregoing; which is, that

B

the children of the best of mothers may, when her defender is no more, have an unanswerable vindication of her spotless fame; and that the friends who have loved and esteemed her, may confront, with the language of truth, the fabricated tales of falshood and dishonour.

To the upright, disinterested, and unprejudiced, he makes his appeal: and when he reflects that fifteen years are elapsed since the dispute in question commenced, and more than thirteen since it was decided in the Court of King's-Bench; that the Judge, with many of the Jury, and the greater part of the witnesses, have passed to the grave; he cannot but think it providential that proofs on proofs still exist to establish the innocence of his wife, under persecutions, insults, and injuries, almost without example.

Though little disposed to a wanton censure of his wife's *New Opponent*, whose misrepresentations might almost justify any severity of animadversion, he hopes and expects that in their judgment of the present question the readers of this book will forego the consideration of his Lordship's high rank, or his great merits as a theologian. His conduct, not his opinions or his station, must be his defence.

To those who will take the trouble to read this paper, it is probably known, that in June 1792, Mr. Meade found himself under the necessity of

bringing an action against the Rev. Charles Daubeny, for slander; the object of which slander was stated to be to prevent a marriage;* and that a verdict, with 500*l.* damages, was given against Mr. Daubeny.

Of the three gentlemen who sought to accommodate the difference without recourse to law, one, the Rev. Dr. Blayney, late Regius Professor of Hebrew in the University of Oxford, has already permitted his account of the transaction to be printed. Another, the late Archdeacon Coham, appeared in Court as one of Mr. Meade's witnesses; and at an advanced period of life undertook a journey to Bath, to set Mrs. Barnston right in regard to misrepresentations of her daughter's conduct. And the third, the late Mr. Goddard, of Woodford-Hall, one of the most valued friends of Mrs. Meade's late father, has left evidence in abundance of his attachment to the cause of Mr. and Mrs. Meade, and of the exertions he made "to undeceive the deluded part of her family."

The characters of Dr. Blayney and of Archdeacon Coham are well known; but of Mr. Goddard, whose life was more private, it is with confidence averred, (and his brothers-in-law, the Archbishop of York, and Mr. Hope, with his other numerous and honourable connexions, will

* With Mr. Daubeny's sister-in-law.

justify the assertion) that few men exceeded him in soundness of judgment and integrity of heart.

Previous to the trial, these gentlemen, disgusted at the conduct of Mr. Meade's opponent, had given up all hope of success from friendly explanations. After the trial, all unprejudiced people thought alike as to the part which Miss Barnston ought in justice and honour to act. Mr. Meade, she well knew, had been attacked on her account alone, and he had publicly vindicated his character. Her aged mother, under early influence and prejudice, had been induced to send her a message previous to the trial, declaring that if she obeyed a legal subpoena, and appeared as a witness in court, "she could never see her again."

These circumstances led Miss Barnston to listen to the advice of her other friends, and especially of Mr. Goddard, who had received her into his house as his own child, when her mother's house was no longer open to her; and at his earnest recommendation, and with the sanction of some of her dearest and nearest relations, she determined to marry Mr. Meade. Miss Barnston was upwards of thirty years of age; her father was dead; her fortune was independent and considerable; and her mother, at the age of between seventy and eighty years, was cruelly and most ungenerously influenced against her. In this situ-

ation Mr. and Mrs. Goddard acted by her in every respect as parents, until they gave her away in marriage; and from their house she went to the house of her uncle, the only brother of her mother; by whom, and by others of her relations, she and Mr. Meade were treated with the utmost regard.

But Mrs. Barnston, long deluded, and at this time inflamed with anger by a false account,* which an interested party immediately sent to her of Mrs. Meade's evidence and conduct in Court, signed at once a long *Manifesto*, the very first sentence of which betrayed her ignorance of what her daughter swore; and at the same time sent two letters, one to her brother Mr. Sawbridge, and the other to Mr. Goddard, reproaching them with their kindness to her daughter, and declaring that the evidence she gave on oath was false, and that she would herself have opposed it; although it is plain that she did not know what that evidence was. But her brother and Mr. Goddard well understood her situation; and persuaded that she was but an instrument in the hands of others, they indulged the hope that reason and religion would in time recover her from the delusion under which she laboured, and overcome the influence under which she had acted.

* As appears by her mistaking what her daughter deposed. The *Manifesto* is quoted in the Appendix, in the Bishop of Lincoln's attack on Mrs. Meade.

Immediately after her marriage, Mrs. Meade wrote to her mother, soliciting reconciliation with every expression of duty and affection; assuring her of her sorrow that the state of the family reduced her to a necessity of acting for herself, without applying at the time to her mother, and requesting mutual oblivion, &c. Of her manner of writing one example shall be quoted in full; and that one shall be selected, because it is a letter to her mother from which the Bishop of Lincoln has made an extract, in order to infer an acknowledgment of criminality. But his Lordship took care to quote only the first part of the sentence, suppressing the sequel, which directly overturned his argument.*

The answers which Mrs. Meade always received from her mother, were plainly in the language of Mr. Daubeny;† who at length printed a book in his own name, about eighteen months after the trial, in which all his former abuse was revived, with more caution, but with increased bitterness.

This book was answered by Mr. Meade; and among dispassionate men he has heard but one

* The letter is given in the Appendix, page 1; and from the beginning to the end of it there is not a sentiment or passage that is not *directly contrary* to the sense the Bishop of Lincoln would infer from it.

† Even whole sentences being the same as used by him,

opinion of it, that it was a complete refutation of the calumny which it proposed to answer.

During ten succeeding years, various efforts were made by relations, friends, and strangers, to effect family peace ; to which Mr. and Mrs. Meade always acceded, only proposing as the basis the christian condition of mutual oblivion.

But Mr. Daubeny, who took the leading part in every correspondence, required, with affected seriousness, that Mrs. Meade should, as a preliminary, confess that she was perjured ; and Mr. Meade, that he was a liar and a hypocrite ; and then she was to be received to the affections of her family !

Among those who at different times lent their friendly services, were Archdeacon Coham, the Bishop of Norwich, and Mr. Stevens. These all exerted their good offices for peace, but declined entering into the quarrel.

Dr. Blayney, Dr. Falconer, Admiral Stanhope, the Bishop of Durham, Mr. Aclom, and others, being applied to by Mr. D. or his friends, to review and rejudge his cause, the two former, in reply, gave their reasons for declining it, but offered their services, or expressed their wishes, for promoting peace. The Bishop of Durham declared to Dr. Blayney, “ that he should give no answer to Mr. Daubeny’s application to him ; ” and that he did not believe that any bishop, or

“any other man, would take upon him to judge
 “a cause which had been decided at law.”*
 Admiral Stanhope and Mr. Aclom having first
 heard and given entire credit to Mr. D.’s volumi-
 nous statements, applied at length to Mr. Meade,
 and soon changed their opinions. But decided
 as these gentlemen were against Mr. D., they nei-
 ther published invectives against him, nor circu-
 lated anecdotes reflecting on his character. Dis-
 appointed in their hopes of effecting peace, they
 quitted the subject without insulting him whom
 they thought wrong.

At length, after thirteen years had elapsed, Mr.
 Meade received through the Rev. Dr. Randolph
 an application from the Bishop of Lincoln for his
 papers; and at the same time a lady assured him,
 as she heard it from the Bishop himself, “that he
 “was perfectly dispassionate and unprejudiced,
 “equally a stranger to both sides, and that he
 “should not listen to parties or partizans.” And
 Mr. Meade, having made it a rule never to obtrude
 his papers on any one, nor to withhold them when
 there appeared a liberal motive of enquiry, did
 not think it right to refuse them to his Lord-
 ship; presuming that he had the same intentions
 that other people had, and that his exhortations
 might be added to those of all who preceded him,
 to induce Mr. Daubeney to restore peace in Mrs.
 Meade’s family.

* See Appendix, *see 252*

With this view he sent* to the Bishop the pamphlet which he had written eleven years before, in reply to one by Mr. Daubeny; and added several smaller unconnected papers, written at various times, containing the occasional correspondence of Mrs. Meade and others with her mother, on the subject of restoring peace; and also some letters and papers which marked the influence that prevented it, and the probable motives of the parties. Mr. Meade had seen none of Mr. Daubeny's voluminous papers, which the Bishop had been studying† while he remained in Bath, and was ignorant of the arguments and the misrepresentations which they contained. Convinced that no person of sense or candour could question the *facts* which he related, he felt little concern about the representations of his opponent.

In the papers transmitted to the Bishop, Mr. Meade lamented "the restlessness of Mr. Daubeny, and the absurdity of his affected demands of a new *private* trial. Such a resource, Mr. Meade said, would have been desirable previous

* If it be thought injudicious to have trusted his Lordship with his papers, Mr. Meade does not mean to write an apology for himself. He is ready to admit that he had not that prudent jealousy which a man might reasonably entertain in trusting his character to an utter stranger.

† His Lordship tells Dr. Randolph, that he had finished them only the Saturday evening previous to his leaving Bath on the Monday.

“ to the trial at law, to avoid the distress and the
 “ expence of a *public* investigation ; but after such
 “ public decision, to go into a private trial of the
 “ same cause, without judge, jury, witnesses, oath,
 “ or restraint ; without means, and without end,
 “ (for the object could not be to restore family
 “ peace, nor to prevent expence, nor to avoid the
 “ exposure of domestic quarrels ;) all this appeared
 “ to Mr. Meade so absurd, that he had made up
 “ his mind to reject the pretended and affected
 “ demands of new trials ; but at the same time
 “ that he should never be indisposed to give to
 “ any gentleman, who liberally and dispassionately
 “ enquired into the subject, every information
 “ that would satisfy him ; adding, that the *legal*
 “ question being already decided, the *moral* one
 “ alone of family peace remained unsatisfied.”

The Bishop's application for Mr. Meade's
 papers was written critically before his Lordship's
 leaving Bath ; and as he expressed a wish to have
 them during the few days which he was to pass
 at Lymington, Mr. Meade took some pains to
 convey them to him as expeditiously as possible
 in the state they were in. In about ten days they
 were returned ; and during some weeks Mr.
 Meade heard nothing directly from the Bishop ;
 but he heard enough from other channels to
 prepare him for the sequel.

Among the few families in Bath which zealously supported the cause of Mr. Daubeny, Mrs. Maltby and her daughter particularly interested themselves; the latter having been very earnest, for a considerable time, to deprive Mrs. Meade of the esteem and confidence of a person who was known to be much attached to her. These ladies were perfect strangers to Mr. and Mrs. Meade, who now learned that they were close connections of the Bishop of Lincoln; one being his mother-in-law, and the other his sister-in-law; and his Lordship being a visitor in their house was soon enlisted in their favourite cause. He was introduced to the other partizans of Mr. Daubeny, and to Mr. Daubeny himself; and living within a few doors of each other, they had constant opportunities of intercourse. To the last evening of his visit in Bath the Bishop was employed in reading Mr. Daubeny's papers, and in receiving impressions from Mr. Daubeny himself, and from his advocates and partizans. But it never occurred to his Lordship that in this, as in every other cause, there were *two* parties; for although Mr. Meade lived near Bath, and many of his friends in it, yet the Bishop did not perceive the propriety, or even the common justice of seeing any of them: nor did Mr. Meade even know that the Bishop was in Bath, when he was judging and deciding on his character.

In about about six weeks his Lordship being returned to London, *and Mr. Daubeny having again met him there*, a close-written manuscript book was sent by post to Mr. Meade, signed, "G. Lincoln;" in which he not only pretends to an authority paramount to law, and declares that he has fully vindicated a person whom a jury had found guilty thirteen years before; but, by an easy progress, his Lordship assumes a higher prerogative, and pronounces the intentions of Mrs. Meade's heart to have been wicked; triumphantly asserting that Mr. Meade had not answered Mr. Daubeny's arguments, nor refuted the Bishop's authorities, nor contradicted evidence or inferences;—which is very possible, because Mr. Meade had no opportunity of assuring his Lordship that most of the facts he recited were untrue; that his inferences were consequently unjust;* and that his paper was full of perversions and mistakes. Indeed, it is strange that the Bishop could have expected that Mr. Meade's papers should be a reply to anecdotes and assertions which he had never seen.

* The Bishop's paper of invectives shall be given in full in the Appendix; and the reader will judge whether any qualification to which he may lay claim, can authorize the language he has applied to Mrs. Meade; and whether the return he made for Mr. Meade's confidence and candour was either generous or just. His Lordship thought proper further to insult Mr. Meade by a letter, accompanying his invectives, with *apologies for not being able to send them to him sooner*.

The affront thus offered to Mrs. Meade was such, that Mr. Meade thought it right to take some notice of it; and his friends perceiving that the Bishop's paper was full of glaring errors in every page, which his Lordship, as a man of candour, might probably be glad to correct, it was earnestly advised that Mr. Meade would give him the opportunity by a personal meeting, which he accordingly proposed. But suspecting, from some hints, that his Lordship might be unwilling to review what he had done, Mr. Meade thought it right to point out some direct untruths recited in his Lordship's paper, of which he might easily satisfy himself; and which, though auxiliaries only to the principal charges against Mrs. Meade, (for the compass of letters would not admit of the examination of these last) were yet sufficient to prove that the object of Mrs. Meade's opponents in relating them was to excite an unjustifiable prejudice against her, and to dispose his Lordship to believe her capable of any enormities.

The proposed meeting was declined by his Lordship, as will be seen in the Appendix; and Mr. Meade still conceiving that some explanations were necessary, a correspondence took place, by which it will appear that instead of apologizing for the affront offered to Mrs. Meade, his Lordship has only added to it. And the copies of his paper of invectives being multiplied, and circu-

lated with great zeal by some of his Lordship's connexions, Mr. Meade deems it necessary to lay the whole before the Public; which he does with the more confidence, as the attack on Mrs. Meade has relation to a cause which was publicly decided in the Court of King's-Bench almost fourteen years ago.

This method, which Mr. Meade takes to do justice to his family, will be considered (as he trusts) at least not intemperate, by those who read the incautious provocation he has received; and Mr. Meade declares that such as it is, he can prove the circulation of it, and bring it home to some of his Lordship's closest connexions. Mr. Meade laments that ~~the~~^{his} paper is so long, although he has done what he could to render it as concise as possible. He can therefore only request that those who will not take the trouble to read his pamphlet, will not judge his cause. He seeks no reputation from the book, and hopes he shall lose none.

Here Mr. Meade cannot help remarking, that the Bishop's early bias in favour of Mr. Daubeny, who as a writer was well known to his Lordship, is more naturally to be accounted for than his perseverance in those mistakes into which he seems to have been led, and which he too readily adopted. The interesting connexion between the Bishop and Mr. Daubeny (independent of family motives, which appear also to have had their

share of influence) filled his mind with prejudices stronger perhaps than he himself might at first have been aware of.

Mr. Meade trusts that his habits and principles would lead him also to defend the Church and its Ministers; and if his Lordship had known him, he would have seen that most of his close attachments in life have been to men exemplary as Ministers of the Church. But in zeal for any description of persons, the fundamental principles of justice and charity must not be forgotten.

If a deliberate judgment of a court of law is to be rejected; if solemn oaths are to be pronounced *perjury*; a just and temperate man would proceed with cautious steps. He would listen to both sides, and shew at least equal attention to both parties. He would ask, before he condemned, “What advantage could redound from the commission of a monstrous act of guilt? What was the former conduct of the party accused? Was it irregular or suspicious; or was it uniformly religious and estimable? Who are the accusers? Are they disinterested and dispassionate? Has their conduct been candid? Are their anecdotes and assertions touching the character of the accused proved to be correct? or can absolute want of truth be discovered in them?” In a word; a man who would venture to judge in such a case, should ask himself, “Have I any prepossessions or

“ bias of my own? Have I associated with, and
 “ conversed frequently with, *one of the parties*, and
 “ with his partizans; and have I ever seen the
 “ other party, or any of his friends? And should
 “ I not emphatically have done this last act of
 “ justice on the present occasion, if I am conscious
 “ that those close connexions of my own who
 “ introduced the subject to me, are among the
 “ most decided supporters of one of the parties;
 “ while the other does not know the evidence on
 “ which I am going to decide?”

But before Mr. Meade examines this affront, so unprovoked by himself, and so unfeeling towards Mrs. Meade, he cannot help asking the Bishop of Lincoln, “ Who made his Lordship a judge and a divider over them?” A paper is circulated, which, if not cognizable by law, effects the mischief of which perhaps by legal punctilio it may escape the consequences. By what right is this done? How comes it, that after professions of impartiality, and after having desired Mr. Meade’s papers at Lymington, where the Bishop said “ *he should be at leisure to read them*,” he reserved himself till he returned to London, where Mr. Daubeny was again admitted to him?

After the decision of a tribunal, to which Mr. Daubeny himself says, “ he thought it his duty “ as a good citizen to submit,” what does his

Lordship mean by obtruding the affair again upon the public? Has he discovered any new proof? Has he produced a single article which was not equally open to Mr. Daubeny, and as much in his possession *before* the trial as at this time? And if Mr. Daubeny thought it anywise material for his own justification, or for the condemnation of Mr. and Mrs. Meade, *why* was it not *then* brought forward? Is there an argument now produced by the Bishop, which was not answered in Mr. Meade's pamphlet, written eleven years ago, in reply to one by Mr. Daubeny? With tenderness* for the feelings and character of Mrs. Meade, few will now be disposed to credit any of her opponents.

But in these repeated endeavours to injure her character, it is hoped that her restless enemies will still find themselves disappointed; and that they will have to blame themselves only for reducing Mr. Meade to the necessity of again exposing their injustice.

As the Bishop of Lincoln seems unconscious of having fallen into that error of self-deception

* The Bishop, who seems never to have heard of the cause till many years after its decision, pretends "that Mr. Daubeny *spared* Mrs. Meade from *tenderness* and *delicacy*." But who asked him, who desired him to spare her? Not Miss Barniton, nor any of her friends. Did he love her *better* than himself? Did he sacrifice his money, and what he most *valued*, to his delicacy to her? Let his conduct, in public and private, for thirteen years, be the answer.

which he charges on others, and anxiously professes, even before any one could be supposed to doubt it, the most disinterested motives for entering on this affair, Mr. Meade would ask him, "Who was the Lady* that offered his Lordship the pamphlets? Who was the friend in London that had changed his opinion on the subject? Who was it that mentioned to Mr. Daubeny his Lordship's willingness to enter on the business? Had his Lordship's connections no influence? and had he himself no communication with Mr. Daubeny both *before* and *after* he received Mr. Meade's papers?" These questions are only put to give the Bishop an opportunity of proving that he had no bias from those that introduced the subject to him, and that he had not prejudged the cause.

His Lordship, in the outset, was led into an error, from which he was not likely afterwards to extricate himself, by receiving as a document a paltry publication, of no name, no credit, false in the verdict, in the fortune stated to be Miss Barnston's, in the damages laid in the declaration, in the names of witnesses, in the evidence, &c. : a despicable printed account of the trial from newspapers, which Mr. Daubeny knows to be absolutely without authority, and for the most part void of truth: and, on the whole, such non-

* See the Bishop's paper in the Appendix.

sense, that it is unaccountable that any man would disgrace himself by appealing to such an authority.

But Mr. Meade will have many occasions to mark incorrectness and rashness. And when he has satisfied the reader of the *utter falsehood* of the charges *invented* or *propagated* to injure the moral character of Mrs. Meade, he trusts that every man of feeling and integrity will join with him in disregarding the Bishop of Lincoln's "*endeavours*," as he expresses it, to prove that she swore falsely; and indignantly ask his Lordship, "Is no period of time, no judgment, public or private, to protect persons from such endless persecution."

The object of the Bishop of Lincoln is to counteract a verdict of the Court of King's-Bench, and to vindicate Archdeacon Daubeney from the effects of it; which his Lordship proposes to do, by imputing to Mrs. Meade unheard-of wickedness, concluded by wanton and malicious perjury.

It is necessary that the reader should have some previous knowledge of the facts which originally led to this attack; and a short sketch of them shall be laid before him.*

* The reader is requested to keep in mind the four points which the Bishop endeavours to prove against Mrs. Meade, viz. "that Mr. Daubeney did not interfere to prevent her marrying;" "that her mother never consented to her marrying;" "that Mr. Daubeney did not make those communications to her respecting a will, which she declared on her oath;" "and that if he did make such, the effect which these communications and their conse-

After the death of the first Mrs. Meade in May 1788, Mr. Daubeny solicited Mr. Meade for many months to join his party abroad; and received him in July 1789, at Spa, with the utmost kindness. He had spoken of him constantly in terms of the highest regard, and often declared, as he wrote to Mr. Meade, "that he and all the friends of his late sister were for ever bound to love and esteem him." It is plain therefore that he did not then consider him so exceptionable a character, as he has since been pleased to represent him.

Mr. Daubeny was accompanied in a foreign excursion by his wife's sister Miss Barnston, a lady about thirty years of age, and of independent fortune. She had passed almost the last thirteen years of her life with Mr. and Mrs. Daubeny, and her kind attentions and services had rendered her peculiarly acceptable and necessary to them. Her fortune placed her above owing pecuniary obligations, and she made one of the travelling party on terms of perfect equality.

Mr. Meade, after repeated solicitations, joined their party at Spa in July 1789, where they all met

"quences had on her conduct, were not such as she deposed to." It is presumed that the reader will soon see that his Lordship is mistaken in every point. The anecdotes and stories recited by the Bishop are but auxiliaries to the ~~four~~ principals, and seem designed chiefly to secure credit to them, ~~or to~~ any enormities. But when the falshood of these last shall be ~~also~~ manifested, it is hoped their effects will be the reverse of what their fabricators designed.

as brothers and sisters. But the jealous eye of Mr. Daubeny quickly suspected what might follow, and he soon discovered unaccountable marks of uneasiness. At length the matter was opened by himself in a conference with Mr. Meade, who with astonishment heard him describe the sentiments of Miss Barnston and her family as extremely averse from him, with expressions that both wounded and mortified him in a great degree; and piqued at what he had heard, and particularly hurt at Mr. Daubeny's account of Miss Barnston's conduct, who, as he said, desired that he would put a stop to Mr. Meade's pursuit, he readily and instantly disclaimed all idea of any future engagement, and desired that Mrs. Daubeny and Miss Barnston might both be called, in order to set their minds at rest, and put an end to the subject for ever; adding, that his affection for Mr. Daubeny was such, (and so it was at that time) that he should be miserable if any thing should interrupt the happiness he enjoyed at present and in prospect from the friendship of a brother-in-law, in whose society he hoped to pass much of his life. *Mr. Daubeny earnestly insisted on not calling in Mrs. Daubeny and Miss Barnston; the first, on account of her ill health; and the latter, because of the indelicacy of calling her in on such an occasion alone; and when Mr. Meade urged him to wave delicacy for once, he requested and insisted that it must not*

be; and holding Mr. Meade's hand, and remarking that the affair being for ever at an end, he desired, as a particular favour, that the subject should never again be mentioned to his wife or Miss Barnston, which Mr. Meade promised; and thus was that promise obtained, with the breach of which he so bitterly upbraids Mr. Meade.

By means similar to those practised on Mr. Meade, Mr. Daubeny contrived also to hamper Miss Barnston with similar assurances or promises, and with similar injunctions of secrecy; so that, as she expressed herself, in a letter* to her mother, "he seemed to have laid a snare from the beginning to entrap:" and to Mrs. Gunning, in October 1791, "Mr. Daubeny was from the beginning telling me that Mr. Meade had no regard for me; and to Mr. Meade, that I was "not attached to him."

It may be asked, what could have been Mr. Daubeny's motives for this violent opposition? In point of fortune, of family, of age, of rank in life, Mr. Meade was no unsuitable match for Miss Barnston; and as a husband, no man had borne more affectionate and friendly testimony to his character than Mr. Daubeny. What could he object to, but that for reasons best known to himself, he did not like that his sister-in-law should marry at all; for as he told Mr. Meade, "the

* In October 1790.

“ had resolved never to leave him and her sister
 “ by marrying.” And as he himself expresses in
 his letter to Miss Barnston, “ you declared that
 “ you never would *sacrifice me* or Betsey to any
 “ *man whatever.*”†

But he now pretends, “ that the objections
 “ lay with *all the Barnston family*, and with Mrs.
 “ Barnston especially, who could not hear of the
 “ matter without aversion.” But how could he
 know of these violent objections? When Mr.
 Daubeny left England, the first Mrs. Meade was
 still living; and Mr. Meade’s joining the party
 as a single man could not then be even matter of
 surmise. And can the family be supposed to have
 declared their sentiments of a matter, of which
 there was not a distant probability? and of a man,
 whom they all appeared ever to like? to whom
 Mrs. Barnston, when he left her house, which he
 did immediately before his going abroad, expressed
 herself in terms of most affectionate regards, de-
 siring, that, on his return, her house should be
 his home.

It had been Mr. Meade’s early design to visit
 Italy; and after some hesitation the whole party
 resolved on the same. But although a more dis-
 tant reserve had taken place between him and
 Miss Barnston, yet it was impossible not to see
 that they were far from thinking of each other

† The original is in Mr. Meade’s possession.

as Mr. Daubeny represented ; and it was his absurd jealousy that furthered the discovery, and perhaps contributed to that end which he endeavoured to prevent. He regarded their actions with incessant vigilance, and on the most insignificant occasions betrayed excessive emotions which are not worth relating.

Uneasy at living under perpetual constraint, Mr. Meade determined to leave the party. But on mentioning his design to Miss Barnston, she made use of every argument and intreaty to detain him, urging, “ that to leave Mr. Daubeny “ would make the breach everlasting; that a little “ time must heal it; that Mr. Daubeny’s temper “ was peculiar; and as she bore it, she requested “ Mr. Meade to do so too. She was miserable, “ she said, at the thought of occasioning a breach “ between brothers, who had met in such affection and harmony; and she suggested another “ argument, which she knew must have great “ influence on Mr. Meade.” But Mr. Daubeny’s behaviour growing still more offensive, Mr. Meade would bear it no longer, and at Geneva declared his intention of staying behind, in order to learn Italian, before he crossed the Alps. But Mrs. Daubeny spoke to Miss Barnston on the subject, who told her that Mr. Daubeny’s altered conduct was no doubt the cause: and an explanation taking place, and all uniting in requesting Mr.

Meade at least to cross the Alps, he consented to proceed.

It is unnecessary to relate the behaviour of Mr. Daubeny, at the least mark of civility shewn by Miss Barnston to Mr. Meade; who at length availing himself of an opportunity to enquire of her into the cause of Mr. Daubeny's unaccountable conduct, the whole plan of his misrepresentations was discovered. "A time would come," Miss Barnston said, "when she should speak out;" "that neither her mother or her friends would be displeased at Mr. Meade's attentions to her;" and "for herself, Mr. Daubeny well knew she was far from being unhappy at them." "But," she asked, "why Mr. Meade should have spoken *so disrespectfully* of her, as he had done to Mr. Daubeny?"

It was impossible not to perceive immediately, the part Mr. Daubeny had been acting by both. Misrepresenting each to the other, he availed himself of the sisterly affection of one, and of the unbounded confidence of the other; and having entangled them with declarations which he construed into irrevocable promises, he laid his plan to keep them always in ignorance, by strict injunctions of secrecy. Mr. Meade desired instantly to speak to him, not in confidence, but in reproach; but Miss Barnston knew his temper too well to venture on it, subject as she was to him while they

were travelling. Mr. Daubeny was entitled to no particular respect or confidence. They owed him no duties, nor would any breach of hospitality have been committed; for the party was all equal, men and women, brothers and sisters, travelling together at a joint expence. But Miss Barnston convinced Mr. Meade that nothing would make her so unhappy at present, or give Mr. Daubeny such an opportunity of prejudicing by letters her family against Mr. Meade, as opening herself to Mr. Daubeny in reproach, or otherwise. She resolved therefore, from necessity, to adopt the painful plan of strict reserve, while she should remain abroad; taking every opportunity of corresponding and conversing with Mr. Meade that was possible, without alarming Mr. Daubeny's jealousy or suspicions. Mr. Meade quitted the party some months after, and Mr. Daubeny and he parted, not with much cordiality, but with decent civility and reciprocal good wishes.

Whatever may have been the state of Miss Barnston's affections, she returned to England free to dispose of herself or not; as she proved, when Mr. Meade afterwards proposed to her.

Mr. Meade having arrived from the Continent a few weeks after Mr. Daubeny, and being assured by Miss Barnston of her affections, in compliance with her advice to address her openly, he went to Bath for the purpose, and called at her mother's

house to breakfast. But he was soon convinced that the ground had been pre-occupied, and Mr. Daubeny's presence prevented his opening himself in person to Mrs. Barnston. As soon as he had retired, Mr. Daubeny addressed Mrs. Barnston with angry and violent invectives against him, concluding with informing her, "that he was come to make proposals of marriage for her daughter," and declaring himself decidedly averse from Mr. Meade. To this Miss Barnston alluded, in a letter* to Mr. Daubeny a few weeks after.

But Miss Barnston, unwilling to leave her cause altogether in Mr. Daubeny's hands, and confident that her mother had no personal objections to Mr. Meade, soon took an opportunity of talking with her alone in her chamber; and having explained to her the state of her affections, and gently touched on Mr. Daubeny's unfairness abroad, Mrs. Barnston replied, "My dear, you are your own mistress, you are to please yourself; it is your concern." "But after what you heard Mr. Daubeny say, will you receive Mr. Meade as a son?" "Yes, my dear, that I will." "But will you think my following my inclinations a breach of duty to you?" "Not I, indeed, my dear." "But you have heard, Madam, what Mr. Daubeny said." "Well, you must go and persuade him." "Oh, Madam, I wish I could."

* Vide Appendix, p. 91

As soon as Miss Barnston left her mother, she met Mr. Daubeny, and having told him what had past, he replied, "that she had extorted consent; for what could a mother do, when she saw a daughter so interested; *that he knew her mind better; she had strong objections to Mr. Meade.* Besides, what did Miss Barnston think of *him*, and his wife; were they to be *sacrificed*?"* He would never associate with Mr. Meade. He would separate his family for ever from her mother's house, if Mr. Meade was admitted into it." Mr. Daubeny addressed himself immediately to Mrs. Barnston also; and, after a long conversation with her on the parade before her house, he appeared to have worked her up to a compliance with all his sentiments.

But Mr. Meade, unacquainted with these circumstances, had engaged the wife of his friend, the Rev. Dr. Gunning, to be the bearer of proposals to Mrs. Barnston; and Mrs. Gunning accordingly waited on her the next day, and having stated her business, "What can I, as a mother, do?" said Mrs. Barnston. "How can I, after what Mr. Daubeny has declared, how can I bring divisions into my family? But my daughter is her own mistress, she is to judge for herself, and to please herself." Mrs. Gunning

* This singular expression occurs twice in Mr. Daubeny's letter to Miss Barnston. See Appendix, *pa.* 66

retired, little satisfied with the subjection of the family to Mr. Daubeny, and particularly concerned that Miss Barnston did not decide at once for herself, as her mother had made no personal objections to Mr. Meade, and left her daughter wholly to herself.

As Mrs. Gunning was retiring, Mr. Daubeny detained her, to *justify himself for the part he acted against Mr. Meade*; which he did with such intemperance, as shocked Mrs. Gunning extremely;* declaring, as he had said to Miss Barnston, “that he would not live in the same family with him—that Meade had got 10,000*l.* by one sister,† and wanted to get as much more by another.”

After a few days, Miss Barnston reflecting with much pain on the mortification to which she had exposed Mr. Meade, and learning that he was about to leave England, insisted on permission to see him at her mother’s house, to convince him and his connections, that she personally meant no unkindness, nor countenanced the incivility to him. Great objections were made to his coming

* See Miss Barnston’s letter to Mr. Daubeny, written a few weeks after, describing this scene. *See 71*

† The reader is requested to judge, whether Mr. Daubeny does not seem by these words to have himself assigned a motive which can explain his conduct!

there, but Miss Barnston for once resisted with success, and Mr. Daubeny retired to his chamber.

During Mr. Meade's short visit, Mrs. Barnston came into the room, and expressing her wishes that her daughter should not be agitated, Mr. Meade in great pique declared, "that he should not have come to her house, if he had not been invited; that he would never obtrude himself on her's or on any family;* and that he should never come there again until he was asked," or words to that effect. Mrs. Barnston immediately departed, and Mr. Meade soon after took his leave.

Miss Barnston had much time to reflect on what was past, and always with distress. "Her nerves,†

* The Bishop of Lincoln dwells much on a promise alleged to have been thus made by Mr. Meade to Mrs. Barnston, of never marrying Miss Barnston without her mother's consent; and Mr. Meade is heavily charged with a breach of this promise. But if his Lordship were informed of the real circumstances, he would in candour have called it, not a promise, but a natural expression of pique, in consequence of very unkind treatment: for after Mr. Meade had been invited to Mrs. Barnston's house, and then in effect desired to quit it, he hastily declared as is stated in the text. But after two years, when Miss Barnston was *rejected from her mother's family*, and when those relations and friends who adopted her, advised and exhorted her to marry, it would be strange indeed, if Mr. Meade had declined to perform the part, which honour and affection dictated, on account of what passed as above. Mr. Daubeny gives this incident the high colouring of a binding promise, introducing, as is usual with him, a religious solemnity to accompany it; which Mr. Meade asserts to be merely an invention of the imagination.

† Vide letter in Appendix. *page 73*

as she tells her mother, " were too much affected
 " to admit of her re-opening the affair, while Mr.
 " Daubeny and his party were at hand. But
 " she resolved to do it, as her mother did not
 " know half what passed between Mr. Daubeny
 " and her. She was not satisfied in reason or
 " conscience with yielding." In fact she formed
 resolutions and indulged hopes, and again abandoned them; Mr. and Mrs. Daubeny describing *their sufferings* so as to afflict her to the soul; " Mr.
 " Daubeny particularly charging her with cruelty
 " to him."†

Harassed and distracted, she knew not what to do. In the mean time her health and spirits declined, while Mr. Daubeny's influence on her mother and sister (Mrs. M. Barnston) grew daily stronger. " My mother," says Miss Barnston, in a letter to Mrs. Gunning, " seems so turned against
 " Mr. Meade, by the effect it has on Mr. Daubeny's
 " health, that I don't wonder my health is less
 " attended to." Again, " My mother thinks Mr.
 " Daubeny can never love Mr. Meade so as to
 " receive him as a brother. Let me intreat you,
 " if ever you mention this subject, to enjoin secrecy about Mr. Daubeny."

Miss Barnston had even the pain of exposing Mr. Meade a few months after to fresh insults, by

† See Miss Barnston's letter to Mrs. Daubeny. *see 76*

requesting him, with the advice of her relations; to write to her at her mother's house; she proposing to come to Bath upon it, and to make an effort in consequence. But Mr. Meade's letter was not only intercepted, but answered by Mr. Daubeny with a torrent of insult and abuse. And Mr. Daubeny had the address to persuade Mrs. Barnston, that what Mr. Meade thus did at the request of her daughter, and others of her nearest relations; was an injury and an insult to Mrs. Barnston, and a violation of honour and conscience.

But the time was coming when the hardship of subjecting an amiable woman, independent in her fortune, to the controul of a brother-in-law, in a point most essential to her happiness, and on which her age and her understanding rendered her competent to judge, could not help striking every reasonable person.

Miss Barnston had for some time fluctuated between a regard to her own happiness, and an habitual submission to Mr. Daubeny's influence on her family. But seeing that no arguments or consideration for her had effect on him, she determined at length to act for herself. It was never denied "that her mother declared her to be "her own mistress, and that Mr. Meade would "be received as her son-in-law."* But she knew

* Mrs. Barnston's letter in 1796, quoted hereafter.

much more; "that her mother did once absolutely give her full and free consent;" and, "that not one specific objection was ever made to Mr. Meade on *her mother's* account."

In consequence therefore of her determination to act for herself, she came from her uncle's house to Bath in January 1791, accompanied by some of her uncle's family, who were anxious that her mother should see the whole affair in a true and fair light. But the Bishop of Lincoln argues, "that she having given way at that time to *her mother*, therefore that any slander she might afterwards have heard, could not be a cause of her not marrying at a future time." On this ground Mr. Meade meets the Bishop; and would rejoice, if on this, or on *any* one point, his Lordship would take his stand like a man; prove its truth, or acknowledge its falsehood, to spare the shame of endless contention. Miss Barnston did give way at that time, but certainly *not to her mother*. Her mother was not even spoken to, when she gave up. Her relations were prevented from taking any steps for her by the circulation of whispers respecting a will, for which they were wholly unprepared, and which were so alarming, that they thought it needless even to mention to Mrs. Barnston the object that brought them to Bath. As they are at this time alive and well, they can themselves inform the Bishop of the fact. These

whispers were first conveyed at the time to Miss Barnston by a Dr. Hanster, a physician, who assured her "that Mr. Meade's character was lost, and "that her persisting in her attachment to him "would kill her mother." Dr. Hanster was a *foreigner*, who knew nothing of Mr. Meade, but from Mr. Daubeny, in whose house he was a visitor, and from whence he usually went every day to visit Mrs. Barnston!

Miss Barnston then yielded without an effort, notwithstanding her resolutions; but she cautiously avoided even to hint to those under Mr. Daubeny's influence, that she did so on account of the slander; which would in fact have been to unite with those who were active against Mr. Meade, in destroying his character. She therefore let it be understood that she gave way on account of *her mother*, and for family peace; without saying a word of the slander, by which she knew that her mother and the others of her family were poisoned. For it was then, as ever afterwards, her earnest desire to conceal as much as she could from those who propagated these stories, the effect they had on her own mind, or the persuasion she had of their effect on others; for, as she expressed herself in a letter to the Rev. Mr. Hooker, "Triumph as it seems to Mr. Daubeny, to me "it only conveys horror and agitation." Those in her confidence, not those who were practising

against her happiness, were made acquainted all through with every sentiment of her heart, as appears by her letters to them, which have been already printed,* and will appear again.

Having thus given up all expectation, with a prospect so hopeless, and having her choice of two reasons to assign for yielding, she said, “that it “was on account of *her mother’s quiet and happiness;*” for she saw no occasion to say more.

It thus appears that Miss Barnston’s heart had a severe conflict to suffer, in the early part of the business, between affection for a man, whom, after sixteen years acquaintance, she had chosen for her husband; and submission to a mother, who, after having once consented, was unjustly and cruelly biased against him by one whom till that time she believed to be her sincerest and most affectionate friend. Her mother’s consent had been no sooner given, than Mr. Daubeny declared that he would break up all connection with the family for ever if Mr. Meade was received into it; and Miss Barnston, though her own mistress, had given way to preserve family peace; hoping that time, and the sacrifice she endeavoured to make, would soften Mr. Daubeny’s resentment, and remove the objections he had raised against Mr. Meade; and that the affair might be re-assumed under more favourable circumstances. But Mr.

* In Mr. Meade’s pamphlet, in 1794.

“ affair into a court of law.”* After this it was, that for some months every letter Miss Barnston wrote to her confidential friends expressed the anguish of her mind, and the heavy charges against Mr. Meade. It was about this time that her cousin Mr. Ravenhill advised her “ to guard herself in “ the will affair;” and that Mr. Hooker told her, “ that if every thing else could be made easy, the “ will-affair could never be cleared up;” “ that “ he advised her to guard herself with caution;” and told her, “ that he understood from Mr. “ Daubeny, that Mr. Meade’s friends, Coham and “ Blayney, had declared themselves unfavourably “ towards him.” It was about this time also that her aunt Ravenhill told her, “ either that Mr. “ Meade was a very bad man, or a very injured “ man.”

It availed Miss Barnston nothing that in some time she herself saw reasons to believe him innocent. The mischief was done. Had she thought of marrying Mr. Meade, not one of her family could or would have acknowledged him as a man of character; a few of them might afterwards have wished any end put to so disgraceful a contest, when the cause was going into a court of law; but not one would have openly acknowledged him to be a man of character, or have taken any step that would mark him as such. And when

* Originals in Mr. Meade’s possession.

Mrs. Gunning, with the best intentions to all parties, "advised Miss Barnston to marry Mr. Meade;" she replied, "that she could never think of marrying a man whose character was under such a cloud."

Determined, however, as she was, not to marry him, she was equally determined not to be made an instrument of giving a death-blow to his character; and when Mrs. Daubeny had written to her that Mr. Meade's brothers-in-law were going to shut their doors against him on the will business; and with severe unkindness insulted her about his character, Miss Barnston felt it the more poignantly, as she was conscious of having always sacrificed her own peace but too much to Mrs. Daubeny's husband. And persuaded, that if it had not been on her account, Mr. Meade would never have been attacked, she was still more wounded by Mr. Daubeny, who wrote in reproach and resentment to Archdeacon Coham, for venturing to say in her family that Mr. Meade was innocent respecting the will. Resolved therefore, at least, that her name and conduct should not be made use of by them in pursuing Mr. Meade with vengeance, she answered Mrs. Daubeny in October 1791, "that she would not have it said (meaning in the world) that she gave Mr. Meade up because he was infamous, but that she yielded to her mother; declaring her conviction

“ of his innocence and honour.” The meaning of these expressions is explained and confirmed by her conduct, and by all her letters written at the same time. To Mrs. Gunning she wrote in September 1791 :—“ They have broke up Mr. Meade’s reputation among my friends. I cannot flatter myself with a chance of any turn. I wrote to my mother that nothing would make me forget her happiness, but that if Mr. Meade was *acquitted with honour*, my attachment must remain as before.” To her mother, in the same month:—“ If Mr. Meade’s character should be *proved* clear as noon-day, my regards must remain unchangeable.” And to her aunt Ravenhill, in March 1792:—“ I consider it necessary to my own *honour and character*, that Mr. Meade should *clear* himself.”

But the Bishop of Lincoln catches eagerly at the above detached expressions to her sister, and argues from them that the slander uttered by Mr. Daubeny did not injure Mr. Meade in her opinion, or prevent a marriage. But what else prevented a marriage? or for what other purpose, but to prevent it, was the slander related by Mr. Daubeny, who, as the Bishop now says, “ did not believe it.” Did Miss Barnston’s private or partial opinion, supposing it to be as decided as she chose to express it to her sister, undo the effect of the calumny; wipe away suspicions, and

restore Mr. Meade's character with her mother, with her connexions, and with the world? Was every bar removed to her plans of happiness; and did she consider it unnecessary to her character that Mr. Meade's should be cleared? The answer will be found, not only in her conduct and in her oath, but in the letters which she constantly wrote after the time of hearing the slander from Mr. Daubeney in June 1791.* "If Mr. Meade does not clear himself of these dreadful charges, I forfeit my character in being attached to him," says she, in a letter to Mrs. Gunning, in July 1791. To Archdeacon Coham, about the same time, "It is a justice I owe to myself to enquire and examine into such charges as now appear against Mr. Meade." To the same, "I owe it to my own honour to have these points cleared up—he is now charged with robbery, perjury, and forgery." To the Rev. Mr. Hooker, "Triumph as it seems to Mr. Daubeney, to me it conveys only agitation and horror; proof alone can make me yield my *opinion*, whatever I may do of *my will* and *inclination*." To Mrs. Gunning, in July 1791, "My mother cannot bear to have any subject between brothers and sisters to agitate her. Mr. Daubeney says, he has searched the matter to the bottom, and the result is, the whole family are to shut their doors

† The originals are in Mr. Meade's possession.

“ against Mr. Meade.” To the same, “ I am still
 “ desirous of proving Mr. Meade worthy of my
 “ regards. The inward triumph and consolation
 “ this affords me, is almost beyond the pain of
 “ disappointment.” To the same, “ Mr. Hooker
 “ says, if Mr. Meade has the spirit of a man, he
 “ must wish to clear himself in the eyes of my
 “ friends, or I forfeit my character in being at-
 “ tached to him. He owes it to me, and to
 “ himself. My friends are persuaded that Mr.
 “ Daubeney only regards my happiness.” To the
 Rev. Mr. Meade, “ SIR, if you regard your own
 “ honour, and that of your brother and family,
 “ desire all his respectable friends to give testi-
 “ mony to the world of his character. Do not
 “ conceal an atom of what is alleged, as it leads
 “ to suspicion. My friends suppose him guilty
 “ of the lowest, basest crimes. It is not enough
 “ for me that his moral honesty is proved; I
 “ would have it appear to the world, that to
 “ suspect such a man as your brother is calumny.”
 To her Mother in September 1791, “ Should
 “ Mr. Meade prove guilty of one of those heavy
 “ charges, my regard must vanish of course; as
 “ I trust it is impossible I could ever love vice
 “ under any form; but should his character
 “ be proved clear as noon-day, I confess my re-
 “ gards must remain unchangeable.” To her
 Aunt Ravenhill, a few months later, “ I look

“ upon it as necessary to my character as his own, that he clears himself, and I have ever told him so.”

Can there be a doubt then, that she not only heard the slander, but that it affected her mind and conduct? Was the shocking crime of perjury ever imputed to a Christian woman on more frivolous grounds?

When questioned on her oath, why she had not married Mr. Meade, she declared that the slander against his character was the cause. Slander, the origin of which she never pretended to account for; but which she first heard vaguely and in whispers from Dr. Hanster, but afterwards in full particulars from Mr. Daubeny: the effect of this slander on her mother, on her connexions, and on herself, as well as on the world, this prevented her marrying Mr. Meade.

“ I know,” says she in a letter to Mrs. Ravenhill, “ the poison of suspicion that has been spread on your mind, and on my mother’s.”

“ My friends,” says she to Mr. Hooker, in July 1791, “ are persuaded into a belief that Mr. Meade is the most execrable villain on earth.”

Mrs. Barnston, in September 1791, writes to Miss Barnston, “ the thoughts of Mr. Meade coming into my family afflicts my heart; nothing can justify his conduct.” In October 1791, Archdeacon Coham wrote to Miss Barnston, “ Mr.

“ Meade is now with me, but if he should not clear himself, my doors must be shut to him. I shall urge him to the nicest investigation. From the long habit of friendship, from the thorough knowledge I had of him and his wife, I rest under the fullest conviction of his innocence, and no labour of mine shall be wanting to make it appear to the world.”

How Mrs. Barnston's mind was really poisoned by the slander, is nothing to Mrs. Meade. She believed it was so poisoned, and had reason to be convinced of it; and before the Bishop of Lincoln should have presumed to pronounce as he did against Mrs. Meade, he ought to have known, whether or not she intended to sacrifice herself to Mr. Daubeny's influence over her mother, if no slander had been uttered against Mr. Meade, and affected his character. When Miss Barnston was asked in Court, whether she should marry Mr. Meade after the trial; she could not answer a question which depended on the verdict, and therefore declined it. But it was probably supposed from thence, as well as from the impression the trial made, that the marriage was not irreparably lost. But it was admitted that it had been prevented, and the Jury brought in their verdict accordingly, with 500*l.* damages, expressly for the *slander*, and for the loss of marriage. But if they had supposed that the marriage was

absolutely and for ever lost, the damages would have been for many thousand pounds.

The Bishop's *insinuation* that Miss Barnston swore that the marriage was *altogether lost*, seems only designed for the sake of the shocking imputations that follow. If she wanted proof against his Lordship, he himself supplies it, that she swore no such thing; when he recites, that on being asked whether she should marry Mr. Meade or not after the trial, she neither answered yes or no.

Miss Barnston's misery at its being a trial *at law*, and not before friends, will be hereafter explained. But never was an appeal to law more necessary! Until it took place, no relation could support her choice, no friend could conscientiously justify her. Even that excellent man who acted as her father, even he would not have performed that office, if Mr. Meade had not first established his character by bringing it to the proof.* Lord Kenyon expressly declared that Mr. Meade could not do otherwise; and the Bishop of Durham himself, whom Mr. Daubeny consulted eleven years ago, as his bishop, gave it under his hand, after attentively examining both sides, "that it was not owing to Mr. Meade or his friends, that the trial was not a private and amicable one."†

* See Mr. Goddard's letter, *see* 133

† The original is in Mr. Meade's possession.

But the necessity of a trial at law has been proved by the event. For if, in opposition to a verdict before Lord Kenyon and a special jury, Mr. Daubeny has still ventured to insinuate his old charges under the guise of reasonable suspicions, what would he not do if Mr. Meade had not appealed to the laws of his country? Then would his enemies have attacked him with some colourable pretences; and asserting that he had sacrificed his character for a wife, might charge him with not defending it, when the opportunity was in his power.

The insinuation that Miss Barnston was a party in going to law, is untrue. She appeared in court with grief and sorrow, subpœnaed like the rest of her family, and required on oath to give evidence as a witness. And if, not only every relation and friend of Mr. Meade's demanded a legal investigation, but if Miss Barnston's confidential connexions and friends were also equally earnest that she should guard herself cautiously, until the object of it was cleared up; if she herself "thought it necessary to her own character," "a justice due to her own honour," "a justice she owed to herself," that Mr. Meade should appear in the world above the suspicion of guilt and infamy: if every effort made by herself, and by those relations who interfered to promote a marriage, on the ground of Mr. Meade being received

as a man of character, failed, because the condition could not be obtained; what could she conscientiously say prevented her marriage with Mr. Meade, or what else can the Bishop, or any man of common sense or honesty say, but the effect of the slander on his character?

The law-suit removed all objection to Mr. Meade, as was foreseen by those who had reason to flatter themselves that he should be able to defend himself when his cause was brought before the public.

"Dr. Bridle has advised pushing the affair into "a Court," says Mrs. Gunning in a letter to Mr. Meade; "I am glad of it, as I know you can clear yourself." "Hasten your journey to England," says Archdeacon Coham, "and at present treat the scandal with contempt; it can pass with none but those that are strangers to your character."

That a trial *at law* was necessary, was a subject much deplored by Mr. Meade; for, as he wrote to one of his brothers-in-law, "he would have thought nothing humiliating that might bring brothers back to friendship." But when threatened with "*the severity of justice; with being held up to the world in his proper colours;*" what could Mr. Meade, or what would any man do, who had a character in the world worth defending? Those alone are answerable for the consequences, who invent or propagate

flander; or who, hearing and giving credit and sanction to it, and refusing, either publicly or privately to acknowledge their mistakes, render such legal resource unavoidable.

But now to proceed to the Bishop's paper. His Lordship, distrustful, as it should seem, of proving against Mrs. Meade, all he *endeavours* to prove, ventures to adopt the assertion, that "she confessed her own criminality, at an interview she had with her mother; and that Mr. Daubeny, and two ladies, wrote accounts of what passed there, which agreed in substance,* *without their having seen each other's writing till finished.*" Supposing this last *to be true*, does it prove that there was no previous agreement, no understanding between them? How came declared enemies of Mrs. Meade into her mother's room, when she went, after an absence of thirteen years, to implore her blessing, and *had a previous promise of*

* The Bishop is mistaken. The three accounts *do not agree*. Mrs. Meade finds proof even in the testimony of her enemies to protect her. Mr. Day, a respectable magistrate near Bath, having seen the Miss Masons' account, was of opinion, that even their own report did not convey to his mind any idea that Mrs. Meade made the confession as imputed to her. Yet Mr. Daubeny's account roundly asserts, "*that Mrs. Meade admitted that she gained a verdict for Mr. Meade, by her own notoriously false evidence.*" And a third account, namely Mrs. M. Barnston's, makes Mrs. Meade's *not confessing*, a ground for shutting her mother's doors against her and her children.

seeing her ALONE? How came three persons, living much together, to draw a formal statement of such a scene at all, without previous concert? *What did they go for?* Why were utter strangers to Mrs. Meade selected to surprise her? If witnesses were necessary, why not have some unprejudiced relations, or family connexion, or friends, or some temperate clergyman, rather than two ladies, new acquaintances of the family, but who had distinguished themselves as most determined opponents of Mrs. Meade, and sticklers for Mr. Daubeny?

But let any one suppose himself placed in Mrs. Meade's situation at that interview, and then judge of her danger! With much difficulty and address she had, once in twelve years, obtained a promise to see her mother, and to see her *alone*. She had stated* her object to be "to throw herself at her feet, to solicit her blessing for herself and her children, and to entreat her influence in reconciling the family." Contrary to promise and to honour, she found herself introduced by surprise, without friend or witness, into a room with five persons, who had taken a decided part against her character; persons, who from that part which they had taken against her, could not be considered admissible as witnesses; one being a party, another the wife of the party, the third, for

* In a letter to her mother, the week before.

twelve years the most useful and decided partisan, and the two Miss Mafons, whom Mrs. Meade had never before seen, having distinguished themselves as Mr. Daubeny's most zealous advocates and supporters, depositaries of his papers, embarked in his cause, and having on other occasions been led by their ardour against Mr. and Mrs. Meade to such lengths, as to carry the subject into their neighbourhood in the country,* with a degree of heat and earnestness, as if they had been actually principals in it.

If all this appear sound to the Bishop of Lincoln, he probably stands alone in his judgment.

The Bishop says,† “ that Mrs. Meade swore “ that her mother gave her full and free consent “ to her marrying, but that in consequence of “ what Mr. Daubeny stated to her in June, 1791, “ she gave it up ;” and on this foundation of sand, his Lordship, with great industry, erects a superstructure, which a breath overturns.

How his Lordship was led into this statement, is not easy to say ; certain it is that he stumbles at the very threshold, his whole argument resting on a confusion, introduced by a dextrous suppression of dates.

Miss Barnston stated her mother's consent to be given in June, 1790 ; and Mr. Daubeny's con-

* At Orchardleigh.

† See Appendix.

versation with her, to which the Bishop alludes, to have been in June, 1791. Does the Bishop mean that she did not marry in June, 1790, because of slander which she was to hear in June, 1791? Would a Court or Jury tolerate such nonsense? The manifesto itself, (i. e. a paper SIGNED by Mrs. Barnston, and beginning with WHEREAS) which the Bishop quotes so emphatically, and which he seems to consider as Mrs. Barnston's, because it is said to be SIGNED by her, even that admits, "that the marriage was given up twice in that interval." Of course Miss Barnston must have resumed her intentions of marrying after 1790, and *something* must have prevented her. And before his Lordship can succeed in his *endeavours* to prove Mrs. Meade perjured, he must prove, "that he knew her heart better than herself;" and "that after the spring of 1791, she never had thoughts of marrying Mr. Meade, and that calumny had no effect upon her." But of that, those will judge who have read the preceding account, with the following extracts from her letters written after that period, and immediately after she had heard the charges against Mr. Meade in June 1791, from Mr. Daubeney. To Mrs. Gunning,* in July

* The originals are in Mr. Meade's possession, having fortunately been indorsed, and set by, by the Rev. Dr. Gunning, who gave them to Mr. Meade.

1791, "a friend of mine is unhappy, lest I should
 "make engagements before Mr. Meade's innocence is proved. If he does not clear himself
 "of those dreadful charges, *I forfeit my character in being attached to him.*" In another letter to the same, July 1791, "I can hear nothing openly
 "of Mr. Meade's vindication or condemnation but by Mr. Daubeny, who has already passed
 "such decisive sentence, that he thinks it wilful
 "obstinacy not to believe what he and his brothers think such strong proofs. Those that
 "know him will not believe that for the sake of
 "giving away a few hundreds, he would be guilty
 "of perjury, forgery, and other dreadful crimes. The Daubenys and my family alone will think
 "him guilty. It seems the Daubenys have thought
 "fit to convey their suspicions to Mr. Coham and
 "Dr. Blayney." Again to the same, in the same month, "Mr. Hooker says, that I should tell my
 "family *that the peace of my mind depends on Mr. Meade's clearing himself.*" To Archdeacon Coham, in July 1791, "it is a *justice I owe to myself*
 "to enquire and examine into such charges as
 "*now appear* against Mr. Meade; it would ill become a woman of thirty years of age to be
 "*blindly attached to a person*, who, if proved guilty
 "of such perfidious villainy, ought to be deserted
 "by friends and foes." To Mrs. Daubeny, in

July 1791, "do not think me obstinately bent on
 "shutting my eyes; I should abhor villainy as
 "much as you, in any one." To the Rev. Mr.
 Hooker, in July 1791, "it is not enough that my
 "friends are persuaded into a belief that Mr.
 "Meade is the most execrable villain on earth,
 "guilty of perjury, forgery, hypocrisy, and deceit;
 "*I am called upon to hear these dreadful charges.*
 "Nor shall I wonder at your being impressed with
 "doubt and apprehension that I am blinded, and
 "*that Mr. Daubeny is right.* But you know me
 "too well to believe *that any partiality could force*
 "*me to unite myself to vice;* or induce me, at the
 "age of thirty-one, *to take as a husband* a man I
 "could even doubt of being guilty of such dread-
 "ful crimes?"*

In July 1791, Mrs. Gunning wrote to Mr.
 Meade, "How am I shocked at the persecution
 "I hear is carried on against you! For God's
 "sake come as soon as you can to England, and
 "clear yourself. Regard nothing so much as
 "your character. They have written, Miss Barn-
 "ston tells me, to Mr. Coham and Dr. Blayney.
 "Dr. Bridle has advised them to push it in a

* The originals of these letters are still in existence, and for the most part in Mr. Meade's possession. Except Archdeacon Coham, the parties are living; but he, as well as Dr. Blayney conveyed to Mr. Meade what papers they had on the subject.

“ Court.* I am not sorry for it, as I know
 “ you can clear yourself. I believe you have
 “ been sadly set forth to Mr. S. Miss Barnston
 “ says, they now accuse you of forgery. I would
 “ do but every thing to gain my character. You
 “ have been too long mild. I know you will
 “ take what I say as it is meant; and I assure
 “ you that things are gone so far, that your pre-
 “ sence is absolutely necessary. Your only busi-
 “ ness is to prove what they say about the will to
 “ be false: and when that is settled, and your
 “ innocence is cleared, what objections can she
 “ have to make you and herself satisfaction?
 “ But she says it will be impossible for them ever
 “ to be reconciled. I am shocked at the agita-
 “ tions into which Miss Barnston is continually
 “ thrown.”

When it is considered that all these letters,†
 and a great many more to the same effect, were
 written after the end of June 1791, that is, imme-

* This was probably another imposition on Miss Barnston, Dr. Bridle having mentioned Mr. Meade with friendship in his will, and left him a legacy.

† The following is an extract from Miss Barnston's journal, in a note which she conveyed at the time to Mrs. Gunning. June. After reciting two messages from Mr. Daubeney, and having at length gone to his house, and stated what he had told her there, she adds, “ that she had never before heard the affair from himself, and that “ she should have been reproached if she shut her ears from conviction. “ The evidence collected would startle himself, (Mr. Meade) if he

diately after Miss Barnston's hearing the slander from Mr. Daubeny; the world will judge whether she was not attached to Mr. Meade, and whether she did not hear certain shocking and alarming charges against him, and whether, as she declared upon oath, her mind and her conduct were not influenced by the effect which these slanderous charges produced.

Of the *Manifesto* SIGNED by Mrs. Barnston, and brought forward by the Bishop of Lincoln, it is right to take some notice. And as his Lordship (who never saw her) asserts that she was in full possession of her faculties, why was it only *signed* by her? *Who* drew it up? The author peeps out whole-length in the very first word, ("*Whereas*") as in every line afterwards. But the Bishop, an-

"was to hear it. Supposing all to be true, it seems impossible to stand out against conviction—it signifies nothing holding out—it is blindness and folly—facts are plain; and I am not sacrificing to the anger of a prejudiced brother; for whoever calls on him to give his objections, they are ready on black and white, for their conviction."

Again, July. "Mr. Daubeny was sorry to see by my looks the subject still preyed on my mind; he opened the conversation at my Aunt's to pin me down. I could receive nothing but mortification to hear Mr. Meade's character set forth before my Aunt, who I am sure is taught to believe Mr. Meade guilty, by her anxiety that he should clear himself.

"Mr. Daubeny is gone to Bradley—what quiet and peace have I had since! My mother and I could go on thus for ever. If Mr. Meade does not call on his accusers, they will call on him; the signature,—Anne being turned out of the room, is odd. Some satisfaction I must have, for it is impossible not to be anxious to a degree."

ticipating suspicions, says, " that it was written *" before Mr. Daubeny's return from London after the trial."* A person was convicted some years ago of poisoning a baronet, principally from saying, " Remember, Gardener, I was in such a place at such an hour."

But did not the post bring an account to Mrs. Barnston, *before Mr. Daubeny's return*, even " of Mr. H. Sawbridge* shaking hands with her daughter on coming out of Court." And why should not a copy of a manifesto be as easily sent?† But compare it with Mr. Daubeny's manifesto in Mr. Meade's pamphlet,‡ or with any of Mrs. Barnston's *own* letters or writings, and all doubt vanishes!

But the Bishop of Lincoln, to give importance, as it should seem, to this paper, avers with pompous formality, " that it was *dated the 11th of June, 1792, and SIGNED by herself!*"

This manifesto says, " that Mr. Daubeny did "not influence Mrs. Barnston against Mr. Meade." But the assertion is so contrary to known facts, that it is not worth notice. What else, or who

* See the Bishop of Lincoln's paper, in the Appendix.

† But to bring the point of evidence to any thing like an equality with Mrs. Meade's, will *any one swear* that the manifesto was not prepared by others for Mrs. Barnston to *sign*?

‡ Page 100.

else, influenced her? What other cause did Mrs. Barnston assign to Mrs. Gunning? What did Mr. Daubeny himself assign to Mrs. Gunning, when he endeavoured to justify himself? What does Mrs. Barnston herself mean in this manifesto, when her chief objection to Mr. Meade is, his conduct as represented by Mr. Daubeny? What did Mrs. M. Barnston mean, the last time Mr. Meade spoke to her in presence of Miss Barnston, in July 1790, when giving him her hand she said, "Why did you not come home at once from the Continent, and speak to my mother in the first place, and all would have been easy?"

As to engagements between Mr. Meade and Miss Barnston in private, to correspond with each other, how will any one venture to assert what engagement passed between two persons alone? The fact is not true. And as for Mr. Meade's using Mrs. Barnston ill, he defies the ingenuity of malice to point out the smallest instance, in which he ever treated her but with marked respect and regard.

In this manifesto, which is indeed a melancholy exhibition of weakness and delusion, the only pertinent part is what relates to the *consent*; the rest is mere assertion of what Mrs. Barnston *had been told*, and would not or could not inquire into. Mrs. Barnston's mind had been filled with prejudices against her daughter, and the Bishop

would have these prejudices received as proofs. On the authority of *assertions* in these papers, his Lordship argues that Miss Barnston never received her mother's consent to marry, and therefore that she was *perjured*.* But the falsehood of this shocking charge was fully explained eleven years ago, in a pamphlet which Mr. Meade then wrote in reply to one by Mr. Daubeny.

It was with inexpressible grief and horror that Mrs. Meade then heard that her beloved and honoured mother had been prevailed on, by the ascendancy which Mr. Daubeny had over her mind, to throw her weight into the scale against her child, who for more than thirty years had possessed her unbounded love and confidence, and to disclaim the account of that consent as untrue, and merely fabricated for the occasion. Mrs. Meade had too much reverence for her mother,

* The infatuation of Mr. Daubeny's partisans would indeed be unaccountable in drawing this affair again into public view, but that they seem to flatter themselves that a paper *signed* by a mother against her daughter is an argument which must stagger people. But when this very paper is fairly and fully considered, it will probably turn out to be an argument of no small weight against themselves. They probably build also on the death of Mr. Meade's witnesses and friends. The loss of these last is indeed such as he shall ever feel; but his cause is still secure. They have left their testimonies for his protection. The documents and authorities referred to are in Mr. Meade's possession: they were fortunately preserved by the good sense of those in whose hands they were. Where the few original letters in the hands of Mr. Daubeny's friends are quoted, it is from the original drafts in Mr. Meade's possession.

and too high an opinion of her intentional veracity, to suppose that she did not believe what she then wrote; *supposing that she did really write it.* But some allowance is to be made for want of recollection in regard to a transaction of more than two years standing, and the failure of memory in an aged woman, between seventy and eighty, whose memory, never good, latterly failed her manifestly.* Nor is her simple denial, with a view to support Mr. Daubeny, to be set in opposition to the best evidence that can be had, where no witness was present; and also against the solemn uncontradicted oath of a thinking and religious woman, supported also by reason, common sense, and natural feeling. But harassed with the subject as Mrs. Barnston was, at a very advanced age, and every day more and more irritated against Mr. and Mrs. Meade; surrounded by persons devoted to Mr. Daubeny, and subject to him; prepossessed by his passion, and corrupted by his prejudices, she forgot every thing, or saw every thing through a false medium, and gave herself up wholly to Mr. Daubeny: so that, as Mrs. Meade's much-loved brother-in-law Mr. Sikes wrote to her in July 1793, when "I attempted to interfere, and suggested to Mrs. Barnston that mistakes might

* If the Bishop want evidence of this, Mr. Meade can satisfy him by the testimony of the most dispassionate and the most competent witnesses.

“ have occurred, she stopped me short, and “ would hear nothing.” And other branches of the family having made similar efforts had the like ill success. And to such a pass was Mr. Daubenys influence at length openly carried, that Mrs. Meade was directed “ to address *to him* any “ letters she may have to write to her mother in “ future;” proving what the sagacious Mr. Burke observes, “ *that if we permit any person to tell us “ his story morning and evening for one twelvemonth, “ he will become our master.*” Mrs. Barnston possibly forgot also that she told Mrs. Gunning, at the first application to her, that “ her only objection “ was on account of Mr. Daubeny; and that “ she *never* made one solid objection of her own “ *at any time* to Mr. Meade.” She forgot perhaps that her house was once as his home; and that while he travelled with her daughter, she was told by Mrs. Gunning and Mrs. Coham, that it was said they were to make a match, and that she received the account with merely remarking, that she had not heard of it; and then, as at all times, speaking of Mr. Meade with kindness and esteem.

The conversation between Miss Barnston and her mother when the consent was given, took place in June 1790. Miss Barnston mentioned it to Mr. Daubeny immediately, who said, “ that “ he knew her mind better;” and asked her, “ what “ did she think of him and his wife; were they to

“ be sacrificed?” She mentioned it, and alluded to it in letters to her mother* and others, about that time, and none of them thought of denying it until after the trial, when it was considered as necessary to Mr. Daubeny that it should be denied. She told it to Mrs. William Sawbridge at a time when it was impossible to foresee that such communication could have any consequence; to the Rev. Henry Sawbridge, of Wickham, as appears by his letter; to her cousins at Haddon, who well remember it; and to her sister Mrs. Sikes, who, tho’ warmly in Mr. Daubeny’s interest, had the justice and humanity to declare it, when applied to.

Extract of a Letter from Mrs. WM. SAWBRIDGE.

“ My dear Mrs. Meade, Weston, Oct. 27, 1793.

“ I remember hearing at Haddon, some time
 “ between the months of July 1790, and February
 “ 1791, of the conversation having passed between
 “ you and Mrs. Barnston. You left Haddon,† I
 “ believe, in February 1791, with full expectation
 “ of reconciling all parties.‡

“ Very sincerely and very affectionately,

“ Your’s, MARY SAWBRIDGE.”

* Quoted in this book. † The house of Mrs. Meade’s uncle.

‡ It was then that Miss Barnston was going to Bath with some of her uncle’s family to avow the state of her affections, and her

Extract of a Letter from the Rev. HENRY SAWBRIDGE.

“ Dear Catherine, Wickham, Oct. 1793.

“ I will not attempt to call to mind the particular words of a conversation related to me more than two years ago. But I remember you told me, in the autumn of 1790, that a conversation had passed between your mother and yourself, *in her own room*, to the same purport, if not in the same words, you relate in your letter.

“ I am, &c. HENRY SAWBRIDGE.”

The following is Mr. Sikes’s reply to Mrs. Meade’s request, that he and his wife would also vindicate her, by reminding her mother that the story was not fabricated for the occasion, as was asserted.

“ Dear Sister,

“ In consequence of the assurance I gave you from Bath, I transcribed from your letters to my wife those passages which will answer your purpose, and sent them to your mother.

“ Your affectionate brother,

“ THOMAS SIKES.”

determination in consequence to marry, and to declare her uncle’s sentiments in her support. She hoped too, that by resolute conduct she might in the end reconcile the parties. But neither she nor her friends foresaw that a new ground of resistance was prepared against their arrival; the charges about a will being seasonably brought forward, which effectually defeated her intentions at that time.

The following letter has reference indeed to another conversation, but is inserted to shew how well disposed Mrs. Barnston was to favour her daughter's inclinations when left to herself.

Miss BARNSTON to her Mother.—Haddon, Oct. 1790.

“ I ever shall and must think Mr. Daubeny's
 “ prejudices against Mr. Meade ill-founded. And
 “ when, after all, he asked me to give up Mr.
 “ Meade *to oblige him, and him only*; and when he
 “ found my attachment so strong, that *he feared I*
 “ *should not be able to make him the sacrifice*; when
 “ *he heard you tell me that I was of an age to judge*
 “ *for myself, and wished me to consult my own happi-*
 “ *ness*; then, oh heavens! do I see my friend, my
 “ brother, my confidant, one of those whom I
 “ have loved best in the world, labouring to ren-
 “ der Mr. Meade odious in your eyes, in order to
 “ give a sanction to the very active part he takes
 “ against him. I cannot but see his cruel letter
 “ in every sense unjustifiable. I told him, in a
 “ letter at Weymouth, after looking over his ac-
 “ cusations in three sheets, that some were un-
 “ fairly stated, and others I had answered over
 “ and over. I told him, that the more I reflected
 “ the more I was satisfied, that *his* happiness was
 “ the motive of my conduct. Attached to Mr.
 “ Meade on the best principles, not blindly, as I
 “ have been told, like a girl of fifteen, but with

“ the deliberate judgment of a woman of thirty,
 “ what can I do? Can I sacrifice my happiness to
 “ Mr. Daubeny’s anger? Think, my dear Madam,
 “ I beseech you, for my happiness, and persuade
 “ Mr. Daubeny not to lose sight of it. I did think
 “ the change in my health would have convinced
 “ him of what I suffered in mind; but to my
 “ grief I find him inflexible. I must there-
 “ fore apply to you, because I am most unhappy.
 “ My friends* here are anxious for me to send this
 “ letter; and *I trust I shall ever be able to subscribe*
 “ *myself your most dutiful*, because no power on
 “ earth can make me otherwise than your most
 “ affectionate, daughter,† C. BARNSTON.”

This letter was written more than a year before a trial was thought of.

The Bishop of Lincoln says, “ There is no evidence of Mrs. Barnston’s consent being given, “ or supposed or understood to be given.” The proceedings of the Court of King’s-Bench would have instructed him better. His Lordship conceives it “ *improbable*,” that a very old, irritated, and deluded “ person *should forget*.” But he thinks it *very probable* that Mrs. Meade *invented*

* Her uncle’s family.

† It is worthy of remark, that although Miss Barnston in this letter, as in many others, expresses or alludes to the consent her mother had given, as a matter well known and acknowledged, yet her mother never denied it, nor was any denial of it pretended *until after the trial!*

the story of the consent; and that she *perjured herself deliberately*, for the *purpose of giving a criminal colour to an action brought against the husband of her sister, her beloved favourite sister, her earliest friend, and her chosen companion till then through life!!!* Is such a remark, even from the Bishop of Lincoln, worth notice? Mr. Meade, with all his respect for his Lordship, could hardly read this ingenious argument with proper gravity.

To the foregoing documents shall be added the testimony of a letter written by *Mr. Daubeny himself* to Miss Barnston, in the summer of 1790, *a few weeks after Mrs. Gunning had made application to Mrs. Barnston with Mr. Meade's addressee* to her daughter. The length of the letter makes it inconvenient to recite the whole, it filling twelve folio pages. It is a laboured composition, written for the purpose of justifying to Miss Barnston's family Mr. Daubeny's conduct towards her and Mr. Meade; for his letters were generally intended for other eyes besides those to whom they were addressed. In this letter not a syllable is said, from beginning to end, of Mrs. Barnston having *refused consent*, although it would have been a conclusive argument for him. He avers, "that Miss Barnston promised *him* at Spa, in July or August 1789, that she would not think of Mr. Meade." He says, "that she gave his wife and *him* a most decided proof of her affection by

“ giving up Mr. Meade, as a man with whom,
 “ as circumstances stood between him and Mr.
 “ Meade, she could not be completely happy.”
 He adds, “ that his gratitude was so unbounded
 “ for the striking mark of her affection, that *she*
 “ *could not suppose he could ever see the matter differ-*
 “ *ently.*” “ You told me at Spa, (he says. in p. 4)
 “ that you would *never sacrifice** *me* or Betsey to
 “ *any man whatever.*” This was a year before the
 affair was announced to Mrs. Barnston. In p. 5,
 he again says, “ that, on their return from Italy,
 “ she told him, (Mr. Daubeny) that though it
 “ might cost her a little, she was determined
 “ to give up Mr. Meade, that she would *never*
 “ *sacrifice* either *him* or Betsey.” “ Yet no sooner
 “ (says he) did Mr. Meade appear on the ground
 “ at Bath, than you behaved as if the idea of
 “ giving him up never entered into your head.”
 “ You told Mrs. Gunning, in my presence, that

* What does he mean by asserting that Miss Barnston said that she would never *sacrifice* him? Does he pretend to a dominion over her person, because he married her sister? or when he told Mrs. Gunning, “ that Meade wanted to take away another 10,000l.” did he imagine that Miss Barnston would not carry her fortune with her whenever she should marry? Mr. Daubeny’s wife brought him treble the fortune of her sisters, but none of them talked of their being *sacrificed*, when she gave it to Mr. Daubeny. Much less did Mr. Sikes suggest such an idea, who had married another of the sisters. Does not Mr. Daubeny himself here prove the point on which all turns? Mr. Meade quotes Mr. Daubeny’s own words, whether they were uttered by Miss Barnston, or in the sense he gives them, is another question.

“ you were ready to receive him as a husband, *but* “ *after what I had said, what could you do.*” “ You told her that I had used you more cruelly than “ your father would have done,” &c. If Mrs. Barnston had refused her consent three or four weeks before, as is now pretended, it is obvious that Mr. Daubeny would have justified himself by it. But he does not even hint at any specific objections being *ever* made against Mr. Meade in any respect. He reminds Miss Barnston, that at Geneva he told her, “ that Mr. Meade “ *had lost* “ *his affections for ever;*” that is, after fifteen years connection, and after professions of unalterable esteem, in five or six weeks Mr. Daubeny’s affections were for ever lost to Mr. Meade, when the former suspected that he might like Miss Barnston, who was therefore expected to sacrifice her affections and her independence for ever! After a recital of promises, which he had obtained at Spa from Miss Barnston, Mr. Daubeny concludes with an address to work on her affections; and a sermon to alarm her, by calling in the aid of religious fear to induce her to fulfil those promises. “ When I am dealing with you, my dear Kitty, I “ consider that I am dealing with a person who “ has a better guide than nature to follow. The “ world, my dear Kitty, is not the keeper of your “ conscience, consequently ought not to be your “ director. The world judges wrong every day;

“ and those who follow the world must perish with
 “ it. We are short-sighted creatures; the event
 “ alone can determine what is best for us. If,
 “ when we are going wrong, we desist from our
 “ course, this is all that is required of us; it is
 “ wilful perseverance in error that leads to fatal
 “ consequences. On this head, my dear Kitty,
 “ you have nothing to lay to your charge. Your
 “ conscience tells you that you are now doing
 “ right: and although it may cost you something,
 “ yet I am confident a contrary proceeding would
 “ cost you more. In one case you suffer at pre-
 “ sent; you deny yourself, but you do it on prin-
 “ ciple.* Had we *not been deceived, you would† not*
 “ *be in your present condition.* You must know, my
 “ dear Kitty, that both Betsey and myself have
 “ suffered much on your account. If you love
 “ us as we love you, you will not wish us to suffer
 “ more. Convince us that we are the same to
 “ you, and all will be happy. This being the
 “ case, and the subject gone by, you will be eager
 “ to convince us that you continue to see us both
 “ in the light in which we ought to be seen—

* This severe moralist seems not to recollect a certain gentle-
 man, who was engaged two years to marry a young lady contrary
 to the wishes of her father and mother; that the marriage was to
 take place as soon as her father should die, and leave her an inde-
 pendence; and that the match was only prevented by the lady
 marrying another!

† Can he presume, after this, to say he never interfered? Does
 he not, in these words, take *all* on himself?

“ Betsey as the most affectionate of sisters, and
 “ myself as the most affectionate of *brothers*, and
 “ *sincerest* of friends.* CHARLES DAUBENY.”

It is not intended, in this place, to go into a discussion of the right, to which Mr. Daubeny, as a brother-in-law, lays claim of requiring perpetual or any promises of this kind, without consulting any of the family, from two persons, whose age, fortune, and condition in life, rendered them independent. Nor is this the place to enter into the unjustifiable manner by which these promises were obtained. But the impartial reader can judge better than Mr. Daubeny, what impression such reasoning as his letter contains could make on the mind of Miss Barnston. Was there an argument in it that could tend to diminish her regards for a man, whom Mr. Daubeny says, “ she *promised him* to regard only in the light of “ *a friend?*” Was it just or generous in *him*, even if the promises had been fairly and voluntarily given, to hold her to them, merely for the purpose of her practising self-denial?

The promises are admitted. And Miss Barnston, after her return home, unwilling to charge Mr. Daubeny with want of fairness and generosity in obtaining them, fought rather, and expected from his affection, that he would yield to her hap-

* The original paper is in Mr. Meade's possession.

pinefs. And from attachment to him, and to her family under his influence, ſhe gave way to him too long and too much; flattering herſelf, from time to time, that as her happinefs and her health appeared at ſtake, and no objections were ever made to Mr. Meade, Mr. Daubeny would not, and could not, continue inflexibly to oppoſe her.

His letter has been now quoted only to prove that he was, and that he conſidered himſelf at that time as, the ſole bar to Miſs Barnſton's marrying.

The answer which Miſs Barnſton wrote to Mr. Daubeny's long letter of three ſheets, or twelve folio pages, is too important not to be quoted; and the reader will obſerve that theſe letters were written before any of thoſe circumſtances were foreſeen, which afterwards took place; as, the charges and ſlander about a will, the negociation for arbitration, the law-ſuit, &c.

Miſs BARNSTON to the Rev. C. DAUBENY,

1790.

“ I have delayed thus long to answer the three
 “ ſheets of paper which you gave me the other
 “ day, that I may have time to ſubdue every ſpark
 “ of warmth, which in the beſt of us ſometimes
 “ riſes in the mind on ſeeing what we think
 “ unjuſt and heavy charges made againſt us; and
 “ that I may alſo take due time to reflect and
 “ weigh every circumſtance that may have de-

"ceived you into the opinion you have of Mr.
 "Meade and myself. The result has been at-
 "tended with the utmost satisfaction to my own
 "mind. I cannot accuse myself of having used
 "you cruelly; and I am as clear that Mr. Meade
 "has not in any instance. I am free from all
 "engagements but those of my own heart. Does
 "not this account for my bursting out before
 "Mrs. Gunning, when I sat and heard you ac-
 "cuse Mr. Meade of *perjury*, and *treachery*, and
 "deceit, with such a degree of anger, as I saw
 "affected her prodigiously. She said immediately,
 "if I had known all this, I would no more have
 "come on such an embassy than I would have
 "flown.' Believe me, I was more shocked for
 "you than for Mr. Meade. *You plainly told Mrs.*
 "*Gunning from whence the difficulty arose:* and you
 "spoke to me also in a manner unworthy of you,
 "Conscious as I was of this, was it extraordinary
 "that I should be displeased *at your representing*
 "*the case to my mother in the manner you did?** Would
 "it not be the height of injustice in me to suffer
 "a man to be accused of such crimes, when I
 "knew them to be groundless, and not attempt
 "to vindicate him! I must and ever shall say,
 "Mr. Meade has behaved to me in the most
 "honourable and generous manner; nor can I

* The morning of Mr. Meade's arrival at Mrs. Barnston's, where
 he went to make proposals to Miss Barnston.

“ conceive that he has done any thing by you
 “ that can possibly justify the anger you seem to
 “ feel against him. The more I view his conduct,
 “ the more I approve it.; and I am sure a time
 “ will come when you will allow that you have
 “ been mistaken in your accusations. You say
 “ you acted for the comfort of my family. What!
 “ to prejudice my mother against Mr. Meade,
 “ *because you conceived I could not give him up for*
 “ *yourself.* Was this acting with the generosity
 “ I had reason to expect from your affection? Was
 “ this necessary to the comfort of my family?
 “ Surely the least I expected from you was to
 “ leave every thing to me. If my happiness was
 “ really the thing you fought, I told you by what
 “ means it was to be obtained. What the sacri-
 “ fice of it may cost me, God only knows. I
 “ believe it will be the first instance where a bro-
 “ ther ever asked it, or a sister ever paid it.”

If more proof be required on the subject of
 Mr. Daubeny's disinterestedness, take the follow-
 ing letter from Miss Barnston to her mother, and
 then judge whose consent she had obtained, and
 whose she had not.

Miss BARNSTON to her Mother.

“ My dear Madam, *End of the year 1790.*

“ I must entreat you to let me have some
 “ private conversation with you. You have heard

“ much on one side, nothing on the other. But
 “ believe me this does not arise from my having
 “ nothing to say; far from it. You have not
 “ heard half what has passed between Mr. Daubeny and me. But it is time you should, and
 “ I always proposed to talk with you when I
 “ should have an opportunity of being with you
 “ alone. You charge me with having, as you
 “ supposed, given the matter up. You certainly,
 “ my dear Madam, was not ignorant that I suffered
 “ much on writing the letter I did to Mr. Meade.
 “ And when I came afterwards to reflect that
 “ what I did was in compliance to Mr. Daubeny’s
 “ will, who resolutely stood out against me, that
 “ *he never would see Mr. Meade, though I told him*
 “ *you would, and that nothing was wanting but his*
 “ *compliance* to make me happy, I own I suffered
 “ more than can be imagined. I lamented my
 “ yielding so much to him most bitterly; I was
 “ neither satisfied in reason or conscience,* be-
 “ cause he never urged one single reason for pre-
 “ venting my happiness. After what had passed,
 “ I wished of all things to have a little quiet; my
 “ nerves were very much shattered; and while we
 “ were all together at Weymouth, I felt myself

* Does not this expression particularly, as well as every letter Miss Barnston wrote, prove that it was not *to her mother* that she gave way, but to Mr. Daubeny?

“ unequal to resuming the subject. But my dear
 “ Madam, if you thought I had nothing more to
 “ say to you, you was indeed mistaken; for I had
 “ looked over my conduct, Mr. Meade’s, and Mr.
 “ Daubeny’s. I weighed and reflected on each;
 “ and had determined in my mind, whether I
 “ ever saw Mr. Meade again or not, to give you
 “ my account of things. When you charge me
 “ with concealment and reserve, believe me I
 “ wished at that time you knew all, and now I
 “ lament most heartily I was not more open;
 “ though my brother, (Mr. Daubeny) was then,
 “ as he has been through the whole, the cause
 “ of my not saying what I ought to have said.
 “ But after all, he and Betsey knew perfectly
 “ well my sentiments; for not content with my
 “ feeling concern at giving up a sure prospect of
 “ happiness *to please him*, he states down every
 “ possible circumstance he could remember, many
 “ of which he had down on paper, just as if he had
 “ laid a snare from the beginning to entrap us,
 “ criminales Mr. Meade as much as he could,
 “ and then gives it to me, saying, ‘ that I must
 “ ‘ allow that we had done wrong, and therefore
 “ ‘ ought to suffer.’ To this my reply is, that
 “ I could not agree to what he said; if I was
 “ on my death-bed I would say to Mr. Daubeny,
 “ ‘ if I give up Mr. Meade, it is contrary to my
 “ ‘ affection, my reason, and understanding, *it is*

“ ‘ *merely to please you; you will not be happy if I*
 “ ‘ *marry him*; and when I consider the unreason-
 “ ‘ ableness of your aversion to him, I cannot but
 “ ‘ suffer much disappointment that you will not
 “ ‘ consider me a little, whose happiness must in
 “ ‘ the nature of things, be more injured by my
 “ ‘ giving up to you, than your’s can, by your
 “ ‘ giving up to me.”

To these letters it is hardly necessary to add more, but one farther extract shall be quoted from a letter of

Miss BARNSTON to her sister Mrs. DAUBENY.

June 1790.

“ Oh! my dearest Betsey, if you knew the wounds
 “ your letters have given me, you would have
 “ restrained your pen from such reflections. What
 “ is my crime? How have I lost all conscience?
 “ What have I done? If I am indeed void of all
 “ feeling, and am guided only by the blind im-
 “ pulse of passion, why did I not determine at
 “ once to please myself? Why was my heart
 “ torn by two affections, or why stagger between
 “ love and friendship,* when you tell me that I
 “ must for ever renounce the latter, if I indulged

* The reader will naturally observe, that not a hint is given all through these letters, either by Mr. Daubeny or Miss Barnston, of *breach of duty* to her mother; it all turns on the duty Mr. Daubeny claimed from her himself.

“ the former? Why does Mr. Daubeny take such
 “ pains to make me miserable, and try with such
 “ earnestness to make you do the same? Why
 “ has he dealt unfairly by me from the beginning?
 “ Why take constant uniform pains to shew his
 “ aversion for Mr. Meade, and then tell you that
 “ his coming into the family would make a breach
 “ in it? When I declared my attachment for
 “ Mr. Meade, ‘ *he was a rascal.*’ When I was
 “ earnest to make my attachment appear, ‘ *the*
 “ ‘ *more strenuous was Mr. Daubeny to criminate him.*’
 “ I desisted from asserting it too absolutely, know-
 “ ing that time and patience would certainly
 “ prove it; ‘ *then I gave it up from conviction of*
 “ ‘ *conscience, and was happy.*’ If Mr. Meade de-
 “ clared his attachment, ‘ *he was a hypocrite, and*
 “ ‘ *means to urge a thing he found disagreeable.*’ If
 “ he is silent, ‘ *he does not care for me.*’ It is said,
 “ when I am silent, ‘ that I give up from convic-
 “ ‘ tion of conscience, and am happy;’ this I
 “ deny most firmly. Had I but foreseen my own
 “ bosom friends would have thought thus of me,
 “ I would have shewn them a very different con-
 “ duct. I did indeed think of doing so, but then
 “ *Mr. Daubeny calls me cruel, and works on my*
 “ *feelings.*”

In another letter to Mrs. Daubeny, in July
 1791, she says, “ my first giving up the matter I

“ considered to be totally on your accounts; and
 “ when I afterwards received three sheets* of
 “ papers from Mr. Daubeny all tending to crimi-
 “ nate Mr. Meade in the eyes of my family, I
 “ did think it ungenerous, and was nettled. You
 “ may guess how mortified I was, when promising
 “ to restore Mr. Meade’s character where he
 “ was not to blame, I heard fresh alarms about
 “ his character. Condemned as he was before,
 “ what had I to hope? I was anxious to a de-
 “ gree that they should not be supposed to come
 “ from Mr. Daubeny. But to go through letters
 “ with him, pointing out every little circumstance,
 “ would agitate me too much. But do not think
 “ me obstinately bent on shutting my eyes; I
 “ should abhor villainy as much as you in any one.”

If the Bishop of Lincoln wants living evidence
 of Mr. Daubeny’s interference in the family, or of
 his motives, Mrs. Gunning can tell him, as she re-
 lated to Mrs. Quicke and to Mr. Meade, the hour
 of her return from that embassy alluded to in Miss
 Barnston’s letters, “ that Mr. Daubeny with much
 “ heat exclaimed, *that Mr. Meade got 10,000*l.* by*
 “ *one sister, and wanted to get as much more by ano-*
 “ *ther.*” Mrs. Gunning could tell his Lordship,
 that Mrs. Barnston made no other objections to
 Mr. Meade, but that Mr. Daubeny quarrelled

* The twelve folio pages mentioned already.

with him. Nor did Mr. Daubeny then or at any time specify any objections of Mrs. Barnston or of her family to Mr. Meade. He endeavoured to justify Mr. Meade's being rejected, on the ground of circumstances personal to himself.

The Bishop can now probably answer his own question himself, and say who or what prevented Miss Barnston's marrying, after her mother's consent was once obtained. And he may now in turn put a question to Mr. Daubeny, and ask him, "how *could* you, after Miss Barnston told you "that her mother consented to her marrying Mr. "Meade, be so unfeeling as to prevent it, by "vows that you would separate your wife and "her children for ever from her mother's house, "if Mr. Meade was admitted into it? You surely "justified fully what Miss Barnston said, (as you "yourself have quoted her) *that you used her more "cruelly than her father could have done; and after "what you had said, what could she do.*"

But the Bishop has alleged, "that there is no "evidence of Mrs. Barnston's consent being given, or supposed or understood to be given." It is presumed he will think differently now. The Records of the Court, the Judge, Jury, Verdict, Counsel on both sides, might have instructed him better. His Lordship *should have said*, "that "there was the evidence of an uncontradicted "oath of a competent witness to *prove* the fact,

“and *no sort of evidence to question it.*” But he says, “*If the evidence I quote had been produced at the trial, the verdict would have been different.*” A few *ifs* being granted, any verdict would be different. Does he mean, that *if* Mrs. Barnston had sworn to *what Mr. Daubeny says*, and to what his Lordship recites, the verdict would have been different? Even in that he is mistaken. Had Mrs. Barnston even gone into Court, and deposed *on oath* “that she never consented to her daughter’s marriage,” what had that to do with *the slander*, for which the Jury distinctly brought in their verdict. And how does it appear that Miss Barnston would not have married, if it had not been for the slander, since her mother *admitted** “that she was her own mistress, and that Mr. Meade would be received as her son-in-law.”

But suppose it possible that the mother would have ventured to swear as above, is the Bishop sure that a jury would implicitly believe the oath of a feeble, forgetful, deluded old person, rather than the deliberate oath of a thinking religious woman, whose faculties were entire? Does his Lordship imagine that a jury would, like himself, be content with seeing and hearing only one side?

* See Mrs. Barnston’s letter in the year 1796.

Supposing that the oaths of Mrs. and Miss Barnston were considered equal in credit, and that it is possible they could be brought to clash with each other, would not a jury examine, and enquire, “ *Why* did a mother, upwards of seventy, refuse her consent? What *reason*, what *motive* did she ever assign for acting, apparently, against reason, justice, and nature, and against that independence which she herself declared her daughter possessed?” If *no* specific reason was assigned, would a jury presume that a mother would have acted thus harshly, and in a manner so inconsistent with her former language and conduct? Would the jury not see those testimonies which concurred from every side to confirm the oath of an unimpeached witness, against the want of recollection, or the subjection, of one that was both deluded and incensed? But his Lordship may rest assured that Mrs. Barnston would as soon have sacrificed her life as have ventured to take *such an oath*; although she did rashly *sign* a paper that had been prepared for her, and which it is clear that she would never even have *signed*, if she had fairly known what* her daughter swore, and if

* The mistakes and misrepresentations prove it. It states that Miss Barnston swore what she did not swear. The very first sentence is incorrect. The delusive argument is adopted, of the verdict being for loss of marriage only. The word *approbation* is misapplied; so is the expression of Mrs. Barnston’s *not wishing* for the marriage: whole sentences are the same as Mrs. Meade reads in letters of Mr. Daubeny’s, &c. &c.

*she had then seen those testimonies which were afterwards brought before her, and which drew from her reluctant acknowledgments.** And let it be remembered, that the manifesto was SIGNED the 10th or 11th of June 1792, a few days after the trial, at a moment of excessive irritation, through false reports of her daughter's evidence, and a mistaken view of her conduct, as conveyed to her by that daughter's enemies. Let it be remembered also, that the proofs and authorities already quoted were not at that time brought to her recollection; but that when she afterwards saw them, her language was in consequence evidently changed on that subject; for Mrs. M. Barnston reluctantly admits, in her mother's name, "that *the utmost* she said was no " more, than that if her daughter chose to marry " Mr. Meade, she certainly must receive him as " her son-in-law; that she was her own mis- " tress, and to do as she pleased; but that she " never approved of the business." Now although Miss Barnston was convinced that her mother implied and expressed indirectly her *ap- probation*, when she desired her to go and persuade Mr. Daubeny; yet as the word approbation was not in the conversation with her mother, she did not recite it on oath. She declared, on her oath, that she had her mother's full and free consent: even the above passage from Mrs. Barnston's letter is at

* See Appendix, letter A.

least an acknowledgment of *consent* not being refused; and if the Bishop and Mrs. M. Barnston think that *consent* and *approbation* are synonymous, all that can be said is, that others think differently. But is not a charge of *perjury* from a bishop rather a harsh one for a philological difference? And as his Lordship must see that Mrs. M. Barnston was giving as restrained an account of the consent as could be, (for no doubt Mr. Daubeny wrote the copy) he will probably by this time be disposed to suspect, that the consent was *not quite so circumscribed*. Let it be also observed, that Mrs. Barnston herself does not seem to have ever produced this shocking paper. But as Mr. Daubeny either *kept*, or possessed himself of it as her executor, he transferred it to the Bishop of Lincoln to *be made use of against the character of her daughter, thirteen years after it was written; two years after she had given her embraces and blessing*, or, according to their own account, her *christian forgiveness* to her daughter; *and more than a year after the good old lady had passed to the grave!*

To the reproaches on Mrs. Meade in the same letter, for calling herself “an outcast from her family,” she has only to reply, that when Mr. Sikes wrote in Mrs. Barnston’s name to Mr. Goddard, at whose house Miss Barnston then was, “that if she went into court as a witness, the mother and daughter could never see each other

“again,” she understood, and so did her friends, that she was cast off from her mother’s house. This perhaps was another philological mistake. When the Bishop declares it to be *his* opinion that it is “*improbable*” Mrs. Barnston gave her consent; Mr. Meade ventures to say, that even probability would be against his Lordship’s opinion. That Miss Barnston was past thirty, and her mother between seventy and eighty, is well known. So it is, that of all her daughters, none was more esteemed and loved by her than Miss Barnston. Her mother invariably declared, that she was to judge for and to please herself, as being her own mistress; and in point of fortune, her father made her absolutely independent. Is it then so *probable* that a mother under these circumstances would refuse her consent to her daughter marrying a man in every view equal to her, even singularly suitable as a match for her; and that she should do this *without ever surmising one objection*.

The assertion of Mr. Daubeny, “that to his knowledge Mrs. Barnston had ever a great dislike to Mr. Meade,” is a bold one, but is necessary to justify his conduct. This, however, can be easily disproved; Mr. Meade having lived for sixteen years in uninterrupted friendship with the Barnston family. It was his acquaintance introduced Mr. Daubeny into it; who married

out of Mr. Meade's house.* And not only Miss Barnston knew the attachment of her family to him, but many others also, who witnessed the familiarity in which he lived with them, both before and since Mr. Barnston's death; for whom a mourning ring was given to him as a friend. Previous to his going abroad he remained some time at Mrs. Barnston's house, where he not only received every mark of the most cordial regard from her, but she even insisted, at parting, that her house should always be his home whenever he came to Bath. Mrs. M. Barnston was no less kind and affectionate, always calling him "Brother Meade;" and she wrote to him after he left the house with the most friendly interest. For the truth of this he appeals to the family which were in the house, and to many who visited in it, while he was there. Even the servants themselves could all testify it. Can it be supposed, then, that he was disagreeable to Mrs. Barnston? Afterwards, when Mr. Meade was abroad, Mrs. Gunning told Mrs. Barnston, that it was reported by every one that he was to marry Miss Barnston. Mrs. Coham also did the same. If she had then

* It is pretended that Mr. Daubeney was a *boarder* with Mr. Meade, probably lest Mr. Daubeney should be supposed to be subject even to a debt of hospitality. The fact is not so; he was purely a visitor with Mr. Meade, for nearly a year and a half, until he married.

that aversion which is falsely suggested, surely she would not have rested so quiet as not to enquire or write a line on the subject ; which it is certain she never did, although Mr. Meade was then travelling with her daughter, and was probably to continue so for a year at least, as she well knew. And when Mrs. Gunning was afterwards employed to make proposals to Mrs. Barnston in Mr. Meade's name, she was given to understand that the only objection was on account of a breach between Mr. Daubeny and him. *Too well indeed* has he been since convinced that every means were practised to impress Mrs. Barnston with hatred and abhorrence of him; but he also well knows to whose machinations he is indebted for it.

Mr. Meade has now done with this subject as far as regards the *consent*. His only difficulty has been to select proofs from abundance. His Lordship considers that a paper signed by a very old and irritated lady, under the influence or direction of others, must be her own composition; and that it probably must be true: but did he not see, that Mrs. Barnston had been instigated *before* the trial to put her name to angry assertions which she could not intend? Is it less to be wondered at, that *after* the trial, when every means were practised to irritate and impose on her, she did the same?

In one letter Miss Barnston is threatened with her positive assurance, "that she should go into court to oppose what her daughter should swear." Did she perform, or even attempt it? On the contrary, was she not terrified and miserable when Mr. Meade's subpœna was served on her? In another letter she asserted with equal confidence, "that if Mr. Meade began law, Mr. Daubeny would go on." Was there the smallest ground to warrant this assertion? And when Mr. Meade, regardless of these impotent threats, subpœnaed all the family, and justice had taken place, then Mrs. Barnston is again quoted, as asserting that she *would* or *could* have opposed her daughter's evidence. But will thinking people listen to such unwarrantable means of sapping the foundations of law and justice? In *evidence* they *prove* nothing; in *party spirit* they prove *too much*; and for the sober language of a parent towards her child, they are too shocking and unnatural; and plainly discover that she said and did, as others directed her. But the Bishop is so pleased with this long manifesto, which was no more composed by Mrs. Barnston than by his Lordship, that he quotes the whole of it, irrelevant as it is in almost every point. The solemn declaration in it, "that Mrs. Barnston did not *wish* her daughter to marry Mr. Meade," may or may not be

true; but it is nothing to the purpose, for no one ever spoke of her *wishes*. Nor is the assertion much more to the purpose, "that Mrs. Barnston had always objections to Mr. Meade," because if she had, she kept them to herself; she never expressed them to her daughter, or to any one else, that she heard of. The two long letters to Mr. Sawbridge and Mr. Goddard, accompanying this manifesto, and bearing the same date, and which are recited in full by the Bishop, equally discover Mrs. Barnston's excessive irritation, her ignorance of the whole truth, and her delusion; and the family well knew it. For her uncle Mr. Sawbridge's opinion of Mrs. Meade, and for the opinion of every branch of his respectable family, Mr. Meade refers his Lordship to themselves. And he cannot but observe, that if his Lordship had applied to them, it would have been more in point for the attainment of information, than the long letter he has published from a Mr. Watson, a gentleman who has never seen Mr. or Mrs. Meade, or known of them but through the medium of Mr. Daubeney and his friends. And as for the opinion of the late Mr. Goddard, to whom the other letter is addressed, the best account of it is found in his letter to Mrs. Meade's uncle, about the time of his receiving Mrs. Barnston's letter.

JOHN GODDARD, esq; to HENRY SAWBRIDGE, esq.

Woodford-Hall, June 1792.

“ The sincerest tribute of veneration I could
 “ pay to the memory of Mr. Barnston, I deem
 “ the protection I have given to his truly amiable
 “ daughter, Miss C. Barnston, under her late in-
 “ numerable sufferings ; a duty the more incum-
 “ bent on me, in proportion as she has been
 “ relinquished by her own family ; the good part
 “ of which will, I trust, in time, however preju-
 “ diced at present, be convinced of their misguided
 “ conduct towards her, and applaud me for having
 “ stood forth the friend of the innocent. From
 “ the opinion I entertain of your affection for so
 “ truly worthy a niece, I need not apologise for
 “ addressing you on the part I now pride myself
 “ to act for her as a parent. Convinced of the
 “ rectitude of Mr. Meade’s heart, and his strict
 “ honour, the highest testimony I can give of my
 “ sense of them is, having advised her to make
 “ no farther delay in doing, what was expected
 “ by every one on her coming out of Court, and
 “ marrying him. That nothing may be wanting
 “ to complete in the most honourable way our
 “ duty as a father and mother towards her, Mrs.
 “ Goddard and I will assist ; that every thing may
 “ be expedited before we leave home, as we are
 “ obliged in a few days to set off for the West of

“ England, determined not to leave her in a forlorn
 “ situation, though our house should be for ever
 “ a home to her. I have discharged my duty to
 “ her by my previous attention in providing every
 “ security respecting fortune, and I may say, more
 “ to her emolument than I would or indeed have
 “ done for my own daughters; and in justice to
 “ Mr. Meade I must add, not only with his con-
 “ currence, but his wishes.* JOHN GODDARD.”

The Bishop proceeds to say, “ that Miss Barn-
 “ ston having refused to marry Mr. Meade in
 “ August 1790, and in January 1791, the conver-
 “ sation that took place in June 1791, could
 “ not have prevented the marriage.” No! not
 at those times! But Mr. Daubeny had seen that
 after Miss Barnston had been two or three times
 worked upon to give up her intentions, circum-
 stances had arisen which induced a determination
 to overcome her difficulties; for as she told her
 mother, “ she was neither satisfied in reason or
 “ conscience† that she had yielded, Mr. Daubeny

* Mr. Meade has the original draft in Mr. Goddard's writing. And when Mr. Goddard mentioned that Miss Barnston was “ re-
 “ linquished by her family,” he had the best reason to know it, for
 it was to him that Mr. Sikes conveyed Mrs. Barnston's message,
 “ that if her daughter should go into Court as a witness, she and
 “ her mother could never see each other again.”

† See p. 73.

“ not having produced one solid objection to Mr. Meade.” But Mr. Daubeny had prepared in good time, and laid before her, the particulars in detail, of such deep criminality and wickedness, respecting a will, as could not but produce the effect he intended, and decided her succeeding conduct.

His Lordship adds, “ that a letter of Mrs. Meade’s to her sister Mrs. Daubeny proves “ that her suspicions about the will were subsequent to the refusal.” But which refusal? as that is the term they use. The Bishop blindly takes up a notion that Miss Barnston having once, contrary to her judgment, to her affections, and (as she told her mother) “ contrary to her conscience,” given up her intentions of marrying, never altered them. Mr. Daubeny *could* have informed him better. *His* efforts, those of Miss Barnston herself, and of her relations, could tell his Lordship a different story. “ But how could “ she,” he asks, “ speak in her letter to Mrs. Daubeny, of Mr. Meade as a man whom ‘ she “ ‘ thought every thing she could wish in a husband,” and yet swear that the suspicions excited by Mr. Daubeny prevented her marrying “ him?” His Lordship will find the answer in all her letters written at the time. Her own honour, as well as Mr. Meade’s, required that he should appear in the world an honest man, not a villain. Her friends all insisted on this. Mr.

Daubeny had robbed him of his good name, and she could not,* and (as she told Mrs. Gunning) would not, marry a man under such circumstances. No friend or relation of hers would countenance her marrying. He who afterwards acted as a father to her, Mr. Goddard, told her it was necessary to her honour that Mr. Meade should clear himself before she married him. She herself constantly required that he should clear himself, or be acknowledged as blameless by those who gave sanction and importance to the calumny. To Mrs. Gunning she wrote, desiring "that Mr. Meade would not think of her, but defend himself;" and to Mrs. Ravenhill, her aunt, she wrote in effect the same; and to her sister Mrs. M. Barnston, and to her mother, her language was uniform and consistent in this.

The letter quoted by the Bishop was to her sister, Mr. Daubeny's wife, as has been already said, in answer to one, which unkindly wounded her by reflections on Mr. Meade's character, which naturally excited her resentment.†

* See p. 39.

† The Bishop, who knows nothing of what passed at the trial, yet affects to speak of it with confidence, and would have it believed that Mrs. Meade swore that the effect of the slander on her own mind alone was the cause why she did not marry. But it is presumed that every one who reads this pamphlet, will be able to correct his Lordship, and inform him how the slander prevented her marrying.

The Bishop takes his report of "the verdict" from Mr. Dabeny's pamphlet, which suppresses the chief part of it; and his Lordship accordingly states it to be for "loss of marriage." But if he had looked to better authority he would have seen that the verdict was expressly and distinctly for *slander*, and† for loss of marriage: or, as the Bishop has seen it expressed in the manifesto he has been at the pains of copying, "for *the delay* of "the marriage." And as his Lordship reasons all through as if it was *for loss of marriage only*, he must excuse Mr. Meade for putting to him the question, "*whether his Lordship did not know that it was for "slander also?"*"‡

The account of the Rev. Mr. H. Sawbridge's commission in January 1792, is a misrepresentation; and as his Lordship desires original documents, he is referred to Mr. Sawbridge himself, who would neither have received or conveyed so undutiful a message to his aunt, as is recited by the Bishop.

When the Bishop again asserts that Mrs. Barnston's two letters to Mr. Goddard and her brother,

† That Mr. Meade may not be again accused of not referring to original documents, *vide* Records of the Court of King's-Bench.

‡ The Bishop in defending a theologian forgets a verdict; and if his Lordship confined himself to his defence of a favourite, none would object. But if he lifts a load from the shoulders of the guilty to place it on those of the innocent, he should be reminded that there is neither Christian charity nor moral justice in such an action.

already spoken of, were written *before Mr. Daubeny's return from London*, how does he know it? Who told him so? Or how does he know that they, or instructions for them, were not sent down for her to copy? Or does he mean roundly to aver, that none of those letters were composed by others, which pretend to be Mrs. Barnston's and Mrs. M. Barnston's? This question is put once for all.

His Lordship says,* "that because in August 1791, Mrs. Barnston had objections, therefore Miss Barnston did not receive her mother's consent." Does he mean by this, that previous to Mr. Daubeny's practising on her mother, Mrs. Meade had not received her consent in June 1790? How is that proved? The Bishop's argument may prove that Mrs. Barnston might† have withdrawn her consent in 1791, but it proves nothing else.

The three or four letters which the Bishop quotes,‡ as proving "that the marriage was given up to *Mrs. Meade's mother*," are really nothing

* See Appendix, letter F.

† Mr. Meade fully admits that Mrs. Barnston virtually withdrew her consent—that she was gradually worked up from kindness to dislike, and even to aversion; so that as Miss Barnston wrote to Mrs. Gunning, "they have broke up Mr. Meade's reputation, so that I cannot flatter myself with any chance of a turn."

‡ See Appendix.

to the purpose for his argument; but when properly understood are proofs for Mrs. Meade. The reader has already seen that Mr. Daubeny's influence had poisoned Mrs. Barnston's mind, and Miss Barnston yielded nominally to her mother; that is, to *Mr. Daubeny's influence on her mother*, and to no other cause whatever. And when she brought the affair on again, she was again and again thwarted by the same influence acting in proportion to the occasion. Yet it was still *said* that she nominally gave way to her mother. But the Bishop would find it very difficult to discover any cause why Miss Barnston did actually give up, but to Mr. Daubeny's *influence* in the *first instance*; and when she was disposed to resist that influence, afterwards to the effect of the slander. But when the Bishop says "that the marriage was *given up*;" how does he mean? Does he mean *irrevocably given up*? If he do, let the various efforts that were made for and against be the answer to him: let the object of Mr. Sawbridge's journey to Bath in Jan. 1792, prove the contrary. For the *manifesto* says, (how truly is another question) "that he came to Bath to tell Mrs. Barnston that her daughter was determined to marry *at all events*. Does his going prove that he considered the matter *as given up*? Mrs. Barnston says, "she did not know till then that the affair was going on;" thus admitting that she then perceived "that it

“ was *not given up*” in her daughter’s mind. In fact it was *affected and wilful* blindness that made them suppose Miss Barnston’s mind at ease. Her letters to her mother in October 1790, and in September 1791, were proofs enough that her affections were not changed. “ Attached to Mr. Meade on the best principles, with the delicate liberate judgment of a woman of thirty, can I sacrifice my happiness to Mr. Daubeny’s anger?” and “ should his character be decided clear as noon-day, I confess my regards must remain unchangeable.” But if Mr. Daubeny really believed that Miss Barnston had *given up* all thoughts of Mr. Meade, why did he relate the slander to her at all? especially, as the Bishop says “ Mr. Daubeny did not believe it himself;” * Why endeavour to secure her from marrying Mr. Meade, even after her mother’s death? as the Bishop recites.

The Bishop goes on to reason from an extract of a letter from Mr. Meade to Mr. John Daubeny, “ that because Mrs. Barnston did not at last consent, therefore that she had never done it.” This is a Q. E. D. which his Lordship would not admit at Cambridge. And here let it be remarked

* How does the Bishop know this? If Mr. Daubeny told him so, it is an especial mark of his confidence and intimacy with the Bishop; for Mr. Meade never heard that he had candour enough to avow it to any friend before.

once for all, that his Lordship's mode of reasoning, that an affair of the heart between two independent persons, once dropped, through manifest violence and imposition, should never be revived, is a mode of reasoning that was never adopted before. But if his prejudices are rigid against Mrs. Meade, his partiality on the other side is manifest. He relates a story of Mr. Daubeny pressing Miss Barnston, before her aunt, to decide against marrying Mr. Meade; and his Lordship had seen that the object of that interference was to secure her by a promise not to marry Mr. Meade after her mother's death; for (as the Bishop recites in another place) when Mr. Daubeny addressed Miss Barnston at Mr. Sikes's for the same purpose, she is said to have hinted or intimated that she should marry Mr. Meade after her mother's death. Yet his Lordship is so blind as not to perceive, in this conduct of Mr. Daubeny, an open violation of justice, and an outrage against the liberty of an independent woman. But it is still more extraordinary that his Lordship does not see that this very story which he relates, proves two or three points, which his labours in forty-one pages were employed to controvert; as "*that Mr. Daubeny did interfere.*" "*That Mr. Daubeny knew that Miss Barnston had not altogether given the matter up.*" And, "*that he had other views, than such as concerned Mrs. Barnston,*" for he was then

pleading in the event of her death. But after all, what could be expected from a self-made judge, who associated with one party alone, and received impressions, glosses, and comments from one side; and not only never saw the other, but never intimated that he meant to judge the cause, nor asked for a single explanation, nor ever hinted at the arguments or pretended facts, until the condemned party* saw them in his sentence of condemnation?

His Lordship is taught to speak of "*Mrs. Meade's family*," as consisting only of Mr. Daubeny, and those that are influenced by him. But Mrs. Meade has the happiness of knowing in her family numerous branches, of whom his Lordship is ignorant, and of whose character it was intended to keep him in ignorance; some of them indeed are mentioned in his papers as having been interested for Miss Barniton, on coming out of Court; and it is very true. Relations, old connections, family friends, united, with hearts and hands, to support and comfort her; except those who were influenced by Mr. Daubeny. All expressed those regards which they have continued ever since. Among

* This example affords a serious lesson how dangerous it is to trust any man with papers. For under the guise of impartiality, he may, if disposed to become a partizan, adopt and circulate any charges. For there can be no more security than restraint, if any one is at liberty to receive from one party unfounded anecdotes, and without enquiry into their truth, publish them, or suffer them to be published, to the world as facts, and refuse to retract or acknowledge the imposition, when their falshood is discovered.

them her nearest and dear relations, the Sawbridge family, were not the last; and in particular her cousin the Rev. H. Sawbridge, who is *charged with* “ *having taken her by the hand on coming out of court.*”

Of the letters quoted by the Bishop as Mrs. Barnston’s, and Mrs. M. Barnston’s, it need only be said, as they are very long, that they are manifestly of Mr. Daubeny’s composing, and that his Lordship has as usual kept back the answers.

The application by Mr. W. Sawbridge to Mr. Sikes was, like his brother’s, purely benevolent. But the result proved the effect which the slander had on the family.

The letter* of Mrs. Meade produced by the Bishop only proves, “ that she did not know that “ Mr. Daubeny *meant to deny or conceal* what he “ had told her at his house in the Crescent.” Nor would any remark on it be necessary, but that the Bishop ventures from it to assert that Mr. Daubeny could not know what Miss Barnston intended to swear, and therefore was unprepared. But his Lordship and Mr. Daubeny should remember that the declaration contained the chief part of what she swore, and that Mr. Daubeny saw it some time before the trial. And did he not give a shrewd guess at what she must swear, when her mother wrote, commanding and terrifying her from obeying the subpoena, and threatening her

* All letters here quoted are given in the Appendix.

that she would go into Court to contradict her oath? How could Mrs. Barnston venture to assert this, if she did not know what her daughter must swear? And if she did know it, why did she not appear in Court, as she had been served with a subpoena; and, as the Bishop asserts, that her faculties were so perfect* for many years after. The answer is a very plain one; in Court she would have been examined *upon oath*, and she must have answered *for herself*!

Mrs. Barnston's letter of January 1797, to Archdeacon Coham, *written by some one for her*, and in *Mr. Daubeny's own words*, she being then in her eightieth year, is produced by the Bishop; altho' it quotes no fact, but that *Mr. Daubeny says so and so*. But his Lordship, as usual, keeps back the reply, which shall however be quoted in the Appendix; and the reader will probably see some importance in it, although it is presumed the Bishop saw none, by his suppressing it.

As to the letter from Miss Barnston to Mr. Daubeny, from Mr. Hooker's, it only goes to shew that she did not think, and that she imagined Mr. Meade did not think, that Mr. Daubeny did really *believe* the slander which he had *propagated*;† but it does not go to prove that he did not utter it.

* His Lordship takes this for granted, as Mr. Daubeny's party assure him of it. He himself never saw her.

† The Bishop says, "Mr. Daubeny did not believe the slander." Mr. Meade thinks the same. What then? Is this any palliation?

Mr. Meade was *just then* returned to England to enquire into the calumny, about which his friends had been anxiously writing to him; and hearing that Miss Barnston was near London, where he was, he thought it right to endeavour to see her, that he might, if possible, learn distinctly what he had to explain, or to defend himself against; for he had then seen none of his confidential friends.

But the whole history connected with the above letter of Miss Barnston to Mr. Daubeny is very singular, and would alone prove, not only the deep and serious effect of the slander, but the unexampled degree of terror in which Mr. Daubeny held herself, and the power which she knew he had over her mother's family. And as Mr. Daubeny had always affected to talk to her with liberality and impartiality, and of an amicable enquiry into Mr. Meade's business, she thought it right to endeavour to conciliate and win him by every expression of kindness.

But as the Bishop argues that Mr. Daubeny did not believe the slander, *why did he not deny it before he went into Court?* Why not once say so, to those clergymen who were negotiating with him during ten months? Why impress Mr. Sikes and all his family with a belief of criminality? Why did Mr. Sikes wonder that Mr. Meade did not come sooner to England *to clear his character?* and

Mr. T. Sikes ask Dr. Blayney, "whether he could really think there was nothing wrong about the will?" Why did Mr. R. Ravenhill, Mrs. Meade's cousin, who was always a zealous advocate for the freedom of her choice, advise her to great caution about the will; and why did Mr. Hooker do the same, who heard the account of it from Mr. Daubeny himself? Why did her aunt Ravenhill tell her, "that Mr. Meade was either a very bad, or a very injured man?" In short, what inflamed Mrs. Barnston to such a degree of horror against Mr. Meade? For surely the honourable addresses of a gentleman to her daughter were neither an injury nor an insult, much less would it warrant such an aversion as hers. And although Mr. Daubeny thinks proper to deny what Miss Barnston deposed, yet he neither denies insinuations of the slander, nor conceals his intentions of imputing criminality still to Mr. Meade. And how he wished her mind to be affected, is pretty evident by his remarking to her, when the affair was somewhat clearing, "that the *very suspicion* of such things ruined a man's character." And even when he saw that the affair was likely to go into a court of law, he averred that Mr. Meade could not even then clear himself, because he should deny that he made any charges, and therefore that it could not be brought to trial.

The letter from Mrs. Daubeney to Miss Barnston only declares, as a wife would naturally do, that her husband was a blameless man; for Mr. Daubeney just then began to be alarmed by Mr. Meade's return to England, and by Dr. Blayney's announcing his determination to investigate the slander about the will.

Of the only interview which Mrs. Meade could obtain with her mother in thirteen years, and which took place in Sept. 1803, the Bishop of Lincoln has indeed given an extraordinary account. "Mrs. Meade went there (he says) by her own appointment." And, "it was the intention of Mr. Daubeney and the family to confine the interview to the purpose for which it was requested."

From this easy representation of his Lordship, one would suppose that the interview took place by consent, and with a kindly mind. But the contrary was notorious to his Lordship; every request and effort of Mrs. Meade to see her mother having been rejected for more than twelve years. But hearing that Mr. Daubeney was absent from Bath; earnestly advised by her friends to go resolutely to her mother's house, and to claim the *right* of a child to see her parent, as the only step she had left untried; tempted also by Mr. Stevens's truly-charitable sentiments* on the subject, which had been conveyed to her mother, she resolved to

* See the history of the interview in the Appendix. *ha* 232

make one personal effort for the purpose; and being unknown by her mother's servants, and suffered to go up stairs, and having tapped at the door, Mrs. M. Barnston opened it, and resisted her entrance with all her power. But Mrs. Meade's heart being set upon it, she resolved to carry her point; nor was she moved from it until Mrs. M. Barnston 'pleaded her mother's illness,' saying, 'that she had taken medicine, and that an interview would hurt her then extremely;' and she promised, that 'if Mrs. M. would give it up at that time, she should see her in a day or two, and that she would write to her to fix the time.' "Shall I see her *alone*?" said Mrs. Meade. "No!" replied her sister, 'my mother will not see you without Mr. Daubeny.' "Then it will be of no use," said Mrs. Meade, "and I am resolved to see my mother now; it can never hurt her to see her daughter at her feet, imploring her blessing." Mrs. M. Barnston then promised, 'that if she would give it up then, she should see her *alone*: at least,' said she, 'I will do all I can for it.' Mrs. Meade soon after returned to the country; and the same evening a messenger was dispatched to Mr. Daubeny, who in consequence arrived in Bath; and the next morning a very unkind note* was sent by Mrs. M. Barnston, appointing the following day for the interview.

* See it in the Appendix, *see* 231

All this the Bishop of Lincoln mildly describes by "*she saw her mother, by her own particular request, the first time since the trial.*" But it is the more unaccountable that his Lordship should give this complexion to the fact, as he must have seen that even a few days before this interview, Mrs. Meade was not only denied all hope of *ever* seeing her mother, but was even commanded not to write to her; her sister, Mrs. M. Barnston, directing her to address in future to Mr. Daubeny what she might have to say to her mother! *

The Bishop proceeding adds, "that *it was the intention of Mr. Daubeny and the family to confine the interview to the purpose for which it was requested.*" This at least shews who directed the business! "CONFINE the interview!" A clergyman thus countenanced in CONFINING an interview between a mother and a daughter, whose meeting was expressly for peace, for love, and for reconciliation! What right had he to *confine* it? or to interfere? As a *Party*, did justice warrant him? As a Minister and a Christian, did charity countenance him? As a Brother-in-law, did Nature authorise him? *Confine it to the purpose for which it was requested!* The Bishop may answer for other people's purpose: but Mrs. Meade's uniform conduct and letters, even the very last* she wrote to her mother a week before the interview, ex-

* See the correspondence in the Appendix, *see* 228 & in *see* 247 notes.

plained *her* purpose too clearly to need a commentator. She requested a return of peace and love ; she implored her mother's blessing for herself and her children ; and her influence in promoting general reconciliation, desiring mutual oblivion, with every expression of duty to her mother, and good-will to all her relations. Did she request to see Mr. Daubeny in her mother's apartment? or to be surprised by a party of strangers or enemies? or on rising in agonies from her mother's feet, to be encountered with charges and arguments from a book, which Mr. Daubeny held in his hand, ready noted and marked for the attack? Did she carry her youngest daughter there, only to be refused the comfort of presenting the little child, *once in her life*, to her grandmother?

But let *facts* speak for themselves, and not the Bishop of Lincoln! The morning after the interview, a letter was sent by express to Mrs. Meade, through Mr. Daubeny, forbidding her and her children in future from her mother's house, if they would avoid the pain of being refused admittance. In a few months after, Mrs. Meade heard that her mother had paid the debt of nature, and that the chief part of her's and her children's portion of her mother's fortune was given to Mr. Daubeny, by a will, made a few months before the above interview; Mrs. Barnston being then in the 85th year of her age!

The reader will probably be able, without the Bishop of Lincoln's help, to judge of the intention in *confining* the interview between a mother and her daughter!!!

The insidious statement, that Mrs Meade went for *forgiveness*, as implying an acknowledgment of her being in the wrong, she trusts it is not indecorous to say, is unworthy of notice; it is a paltry perversion; and there will be, and can be, but one opinion on the subject. But when his Lordship says, "the interview *was requested for forgiveness*,"* Mr. Meade again ventures to say, that his Lordship owes it to his own rank and station to make apologies for this misrepresentation, and for this attack on the character of Mrs. Meade. There is not the smallest foundation in fact for the assertion! Why did not the Bishop produce any one letter of Mrs. Meade's to support him, even the very last which she sent to her mother previous to the interview? For being never permitted to see her mother, her sentiments could be expressed

* The Bishop is pleased to charge on Mr. Meade, what in fact his Lordship alone practises; viz. suppressing principal features, and bringing forward those that are subordinate. Indeed his Lordship does more, for he not only suppresses principal features, but he supplies others out of his own imagination, as it should seem; for certainly they are not taken from Mrs. Meade. Her application to her mother stated her object to be, "reconciliation, mutual oblivion, old charities." But his Lordship suppressing these, substitutes the word "*forgiveness*."

only in her letters. What is the reason that every document is suppressed that discovers the truth? Such a sentiment as confessing wrong to Mr. Daubeny, or injury to any one, never in thirteen years escaped her pen or her lips. And Mr. Meade ventures to say, that no one whatever is out of the reach of danger; that there is no security either in law, innocence, or truth; if unfounded assertions or malignant perversions be admitted in judgment.

Those who feel an interest in the subject of this pamphlet, will not be displeased to learn, that in every application to her mother, Mrs. Meade forgot both injuries and insults, and only remembered, that the person she was addressing was her mother, and that that mother was deceived. Her letters therefore uniformly expressed humility, affection, and duty. Mrs. Meade, as has been already said, married without applying at the time to her mother. Her motives for adopting the advice of her other relations and friends, and for availing herself of the independence, which she was acknowledged to possess, have been already explained. But as her mother was by false representations, influenced to revoke, without assigning any reason, the consent she had once given, declaring she would never again see her; and Mrs. Meade, supported by eminent divines, as well as others, thought proper to act for

herself, without offering the insult of again asking her mother's consent at that moment of irritation; she never ceased during thirteen years to implore, with every expression of duty, her mother's forgiveness *for that unintended appearance of disrespect to her.*

The artful insinuation that these expressions of filial love and piety were acknowledgments of her guilt, is a perversion of a christian virtue into criminality, and none knew it better than those persons who misapplied them. The bait of confessing criminality, in order to exculpate Mr. Daubeny, was often held out to her with cunning allurements; but she as uniformly rejected it with indignation and horror. When insulted with a similar shocking proposal in the year 1797, she gave a final answer from which she never varied.

Mrs. MEADE to her Mother.

Dec. 28, 1797.

“ To your conditions of reconciliation I return
 “ with a sorrowful heart this answer. You require
 “ that I proclaim myself a perjured wretch; that
 “ I confess that all I have declared for five years
 “ past, even at the altar, is false; and that all
 “ those that bore testimony to my truth, are liars!
 “ Oh, Nature! Oh, Charity! This is the sum of

“ what *you are taught* to demand of your daughter, and thus covered with infamy I am to be received to your affections and family !

“ To be restored to your love I would give the world, but I cannot sacrifice for it conscience and truth. God will not abandon me, although my mother does.

“ I received the Sacrament on Christmas-Day, and Heaven is my witness, when I declare my truth, and the innocence of my intentions towards all my family. I never wilfully injured any one; I am in love and charity with all; I have never been wanting in filial duty to you, and God grant that you may not have to reproach yourself with want of maternal affection towards me.

“ Put your hand on your heart, Madam, and ask yourself, whether during thirty years I lived under your eye, you ever observed in me a want of duty and love, or a disregard of truth and religion. Yet now you overlook the habits of my life, the proofs of my innocence, and even my solemn oath; and I declare, on the authority of the most pious ministers, that the very spirit of the gospel is misapplied against me. You adopt the conduct and sentiments of a prejudiced and interested person; you refer from my oath to a false printed trial, for which I am no ways answerable; and to extracts of letters,

“ whose meaning is misunderstood or perverted;
 “ and you reject from your house a charitable
 “ minister of peace,* after inviting his interfe-
 “ rence, and after he had travelled with exertions
 “ almost too much for his age, in order to point
 “ out to you the means of reconciliation.

“ If you continue inflexible in these shocking
 “ conditions, God forbid that I should accept
 “ them!—but if the grace of God should turn
 “ your heart to me, I will fly at a moment to
 “ throw myself at your feet, and to implore your
 “ blessing; persuaded that neither absence, nor
 “ any other hardship you may inflict on me, will
 “ ever extinguish that affection with which I
 “ remain, your much-injured and afflicted daugh-
 “ ter,

CATHERINE MEADE.”

On the *examination* of Mrs. Meade at her interview with her mother, little comment is necessary. The world will judge of the situation into which she was surprised. They will judge whether it was humane or decent at such a time, without notice, and without witnesses, to have an hostile cross-examiner prepared to attack, and reporters to record or to construe the expressions of a lady, who being raised from her mother's feet, and carried out of the room to recover her-

* Archdeacon Coham.

self, had returned to it only to solicit reconciliation and blessing.

The Bishop of Lincoln recites a speech, which Mr. Daubeny then addressed to Mrs. Meade in presence of her mother; and is it not strange that his Lordship does not perceive that the speech would have been barbarous and unfeeling, *even if the fact asserted in it had been true*, "that the late *Bishop Mofs pronounced Mrs. Meade perjured, if ever woman was so.*" Was that a moment to insult her, the first time she had seen her mother in thirteen years, and the last time she was ever to behold her? Was *such a speech* ever addressed to a lady in presence of strangers? Or was it delicate, or becoming that man, in whose favour a will had been just signed, conveying to him Mrs. Meade's share of her mother's fortune.

The Bishop might have recited a similar story respecting the late Dr. Blayney, which Mr. Daubeny also addressed at the same time to Mrs. Meade; but his Lordship probably declined doing so, because it has been so publicly proved to be unfounded, that Mr. Daubeny and his friends wish to have it forgotten, and give it up as a *mistake*. But they were little aware, that like Dr. Blayney, the late Bishop Mofs has left indignant denials of the assertion respecting his Lordship. Whatever impressions, however, these denials may now make on the world, the impression which

Mrs. Barnston received, such as it was, she carried to the grave, and her acts in consequence are past remedy.

But even as the Bishop of Lincoln relates the story of Bishop Mofs, is there any thing like argument or proof in it? The old maxim of "*audi alteram partem*" must be rejected, before this mode of reasoning can obtain credit. If the late Bishop of Bath and Wells listened to Mr. Daubeny, it was because the latter would not otherwise* serve the New-Church. And if his Lordship expressed an opinion, it could not and did not affect Mrs. Meade; because whatever credit was given to ex-parte evidence, was given to the *person*, not to the *fact*, of which latter his Lordship could not be a judge, having heard but *one side*. And in fact Mrs. Meade *knew* that he *never did pronounce* as the Bishop of Lincoln recites from Mr. Daubeny. The Bishop of Lincoln however, to give, as it should seem, a sort of importance to the story, says, that Mr. Daubeny related it to Mrs. Meade in the presence of her mother. *So much the worse!* And indeed Mrs. Meade was so surprised at Mr. Daubeny's other story in presence of her mother, "that Dr. Blayney had also favoured his cause just before his death," that nothing of that kind could in comparison affect

* Dr. Mofs's letter to Mr. Meade, Jan. 7, 1799.

her. But to save the time and trouble of comments, Mr. Meade denies altogether the truth of Mr. Daubeny's assertion, recited by the Bishop of Lincoln: and he can fortunately produce decisive authority for contradicting it.*

*Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Dr. Moss
to Mr. MEADE.*

“ Jan. 7, 1799.

“ That you may no longer remain under any
“ misapprehensions in regard to my father and
“ myself, I shall tell you once for all, that we nei-
“ ther said nor wrote, nor encouraged the writing
“ of, any thing whatever that reflected on Mrs.
“ Meade or yourself.”

And the Bishop of Bath and Wells himself, on hearing that this story which the Bishop of Lincoln has recited in his paper, was in circula-

* Mr. Meade here publicly calls on the Bishop of Lincoln to state what grounds, what document, or authority, he had for ascribing to a lady, who was a stranger to him, a monstrous and shocking act of wickedness, as under the sanction of the name of a deceased bishop? Mr. Meade ventures to tell the world, that the Bishop of Lincoln had no sort of proof to support this shocking aggression, but the word of that person whom of all others he ought in this cause to have distrusted! The assertion is *false, false*. But if it were true that a bishop, or any man, on hearing *one* side, had been rash enough to decide a cause, will any man of sense say that such a decision is any thing like proof? Or will any man who has an idea of justice call such “a *full* investigation,” as the Bishop of Lincoln terms it? If such means of attacking characters be tolerated, what security or protection does the law afford?

tion, declared it, under his own hand, to be "*foul and villainous calumny.*" These are his Lordship's words.*

In the following month, February 1799, Dr. Blayney wrote to Mr. Meade from Oxford, "I had a civil message from Dr. Mofs, by Mr. Barker, to assure me that he was perfectly satisfied with respect to you ; and that neither he nor his father meant to take any other part respecting the matter between you and your adversary than what is explained in his letter to you;"† which related to Mr. Daubeny's professional character, and his fitness to serve the New Church.

Instead of a reply to this, the Bishop of Lincoln, keeping out of sight the only point at issue, directs the mind to what is absolutely irrelevant. "If the Bishop of Bath and Wells" says he "*did not* pronounce Mrs. Meade *perjured*, he gave an unequivocal proof of his being satisfied with respect to Mr. Daubeny, by licensing him to the

* As the Bishop of Lincoln requires original documents, Mr. Meade refers his Lordship to the Rev. Mr. Sibley, in Bath, to whom the Bishop of Bath and Wells wrote ; and who gave his Lordship's letter twice to Mr. Meade, that he might clearly understand it ; and at the same time to the Rev. Dr. Gardiner, who accompanied Mr. Meade. Mr Sibley no doubt has preserved the letter, in which were the above expressions, and others not less pointed ; and as a gentleman of known candour and conscience, he will not decline to perform an act of justice, if properly called upon to shew it.

† Mr. Meade has the original.

“ Free Church at Bath, after a ‘ *full investigation*’*
 “ of the case between you and Mr. Daubeny; and
 “ I have Dr. Moss’s authority to say, that his
 “ father did express the most complete satisfaction
 “ with respect to Mr. Daubeny’s character. The
 “ late Archbishop of Canterbury, who was con-
 “ sulted, as being a subscriber to the Free Church,
 “ gave his full consent and approbation to Mr.
 “ Daubeny’s appointment to the Free Church,” &c.

Mr. Meade attacked neither Mr. Daubeny’s public nor private character, much less did he interfere with the opinion which any bishop or other person might entertain of him; he merely spoke to a *fact*, in defence of his wife; to a shocking, unexampled, and specific charge, recited by the Bishop of Lincoln, and which Mr. Meade had proved to be *false*. And when the Bishop of Lincoln quotes extracts of letters, which he professes to have himself just received on this subject, where are his own letters, to which these were replies?† How did his Lordship represent facts? And by what statements did he solicit these letters? The answer to these questions is by no means ir-

* This *full investigation* was hearing one side!

† Did the Bishop of Lincoln receive or call for these replies, before he uttered his paper of invectives? Did he not *first circulate*? For the circulation by his family, of a paper written by himself, cannot be presumed to be without his concurrence.

relevant. Let his Lordship shew the letters which drew forth the replies; for there need be no mystery in the matter.

That Mrs. Meade made confessions* of guilt as is ungenerously asserted, she positively denies. The story carries its own refutation: and Providence seems to have made her enemies the instruments of confuting themselves; for in the letter her sister sent to her through Mr. Daubeny himself, the morning after these pretended confessions are said to have been made, and the first step taken by either party, she is told that her mother's doors are to be shut against her and her children. "Justice," says Mrs. M. Barnston, "must first be done to my mother's and to Mr. Daubeny's character, before you can be received into the family. *Moreover*, (Mr. Daubeny's own favourite word) *moreover* she desires that your children may not be sent, as that can answer no purpose while their mother is not received. I

* Mrs. Meade has never seen a statement of the confessions which she is said to have made; but from what she hears, they consist of interpretations put on her words by zealous partisans, who probably thought as they wished. Mrs. Meade herself did not conceive that any expressions of her's could, by the most ardent imaginations, have received the construction which she hears has been applied to them. But she believes that the history and circumstances of the pretended confessions speak for themselves, without any necessity on her part to declare in a more solemn manner, which she is ready any moment to do, that the sentiments ascribed to her were never in her thoughts.

“ write this to prevent the disagreeable circumstance of your being refused admittance. You have been told *on what terms alone you can be received.*”

It is plain then that she had not complied with their terms! For if she had, every bar to her being received into her mother's house must have been removed, even by their own account. Will any man of common sense now give credit to that shocking allegation conveyed to Mrs. Meade by Mr. Daubeney, “ you know that you admitted that *“ you gained a verdict for Mr. Meade by your notoriously-false evidence.”* Does not the assertion carry with it its own *condemnation*, as well as its *refutation*? Mr. Meade requests the reader to peruse the letters, and the history of that transaction in the Appendix.

His Lordship, proceeding with his paper, recites the assertion, “ that Mrs. Meade *imputed motives* to Mr. Daubeney.” Mr. Meade informs his Lordship, that he is again mistaken. She only related facts. The Jury ascribed motives.

Mrs. Meade *also begs leave* to protest against the Bishop's readiness *to find out motives for her.* She knew her own, and swore to them!

Again, his Lordship adopts the imposing pretence of Mr. Daubeney being “ *the representative* of Mrs. Meade's father.” No doubt he endeavoured to be the representative of the *whole*

family! But who made him *representative*? He had married one of Mrs. Meade's sisters, and had been one of her father's three executors, jointly with an elder brother-in-law Mr. Sikes, and Mrs. Barnston's brother Mr. Sawbridge, both of whom were alive. But what authority had he, as executor of a will, over *persons*? or when did it cease? or was it to extend over Miss Barnston, at thirty-two, as over her mother, till at eighty-five years of age?

The Bishop's recital, "that Miss Barnston being determined on marrying, had made preparations for her wedding;" and his Lordship's wife, Mrs. Tomline, having confidently averred "that Miss Barnston had even fixed on the wedding-day previous to the trial," are new proofs of the unfitness of his Lordship for the office into which he obtruded himself. How could he or Mrs. Tomline know her intentions or determinations, or venture to poison the minds of her friends by such ungenerous stories, even before the Bishop had seen Mr. Meade's papers? The fact is absolutely unfounded. That friend of her late father, into whose generous family she was received, that protector and second father, who, with his excellent wife, had conducted her into Court, laid before her *after the trial* her whole situation, and earnestly advised her to marry Mr. Meade, himself and Mrs. Goddard assisting

“ to expedite all matters before they should be
“ obliged to leave home.”*

On the same foundation does the Bishop recite,
“ that the carriage was bespoke before the trial.”
How can his Lordship suffer his name to be thus
trifled with? The coachmaker’s books can supply
a contradiction to this assertion. Mr. Meade’s
carriage *was not bespoke*, either *before* or *after* the
trial. For pressed by Mr. Goddard, who, as he
himself says, was in haste to go to the West of
England,† and only waited to perform the part of
a parent by Miss Barnston, Mr. Meade searched,
and found a carriage ready made, and within a
few days of being finished, which he bought of
Kemp, in Long-Acre.‡ The Bishop even adopts
an incorrectness in stating the time of Mrs. Meade’s
marriage, for the purpose, as it should seem, of
giving a little more plausibility to his argument.

His Lordship having discovered a want of
precision in one statement, where indeed preci-

* See Mr. Goddard’s letter to Mrs. Meade’s uncle already quoted.
Dr. Blayney also wrote to Miss Barnston an excellent paper on the
same subject, now in Mr. Meade’s possession.

† See his letter already given.

‡ If the Bishop thought these stories worth reciting when he
believed them to be true, was it not common justice to retract them,
when he found that they were false? But as his Lordship and Mrs.
Tomline would scorn to invent such tales to injure the reputation
of persons whom they do not know, Mr. Meade calls on them to
recollect who it was that thus imposed on them; and when they
have discovered the author of these calumnies, then let the Bishop.

sion was neither affected, nor appeared necessary, has noted it with his usual sagacity; and he is welcome to all the triumph it can give him. Mr. Meade, describing Mrs. Barnston ^{at the time of the trial} as an aged person, whose memory was more likely to fail than that of a person who was younger by forty years, mentioned loosely, "an old lady, near eighty." If Mr. Meade had said, "between seventy and eighty," he confesses it would have been better. But when the Bishop of Lincoln gravely marks this mighty error, in what light will that censor appear, who really needs correction in that very point on which he presumes with such strictness to correct another? His Lordship positively avers, "*that Mrs. Barnston was in truth in her seventy-second year at the time of the trial.*" Mr. Meade informs his Lordship, "*that Mrs. Barnston was in truth in her seventy-fourth year at the time of the trial.*"*

These stories would be hardly worth notice, but that the circulation of them by his Lordship *and his family* manifest both his haste and his partiality.

apply his own position, "that a person detected in falsehood is not entitled to credit on any other occasion."

* It is remarkable too, that his Lordship saw Mrs. Barnston's age stated by Mrs. M. Barnston, in a letter to Mrs. Meade, in September 1803, when she mentions that her mother had then passed her eighty-fifth year. But the Bishop has only to look to mourning-rings of the family, or any other document, and he will see that Mrs. Barnston wanted only three months of seventy-four, when his Lordship ventured to assert "that she was *in truth* in her seventy-second year."

For he never waited to ask whether they were true or not; nor, when they were proved to be unfounded, had he the candour to acknowledge it. On the contrary, forgetting that these stories were brought forward as arguments *against* Mrs. Meade; and that their falsehood marked the temper of her opponents, his Lordship thinks it enough to say, "that these are nothing to the "other points." As if he would insinuate, that Mr. Meade, by proving these to be false, meant to evade any other points. But Mr. Meade ventures to say, that there is not a single page of his whole paper that has not glaring mistakes, not to say more.

His Lordship proceeding gives what he is pleased to call "*Mrs. Meade's representations.*" He should rather have said, "*Mr. Daubeny's representations for Mrs. Meade.*" Mrs. Meade would have answered for herself, if she had been applied to. And when the Bishop says, "that all idea "of her marrying Mr. Meade *was understood* to be "at an end:" *by whom* was it understood? Not by Miss Barnston; although she was not obliged to reveal all her hopes and fears to so unfeeling a relation as Mr. Daubeny.

As to Miss Barnston's *betraying* what Mr. Daubeny said, (which admits that he did say it) it is so clearly proved to be false, that it is astonishing the Bishop would be made the in-



strument of circulating so unjust and ungenerous an assertion; her endeavours to give Mr. Meade an opportunity to defend himself, by knowing clearly the charges against him, being not more earnest than her anxiety to preserve Mr. Daubeney from the suspicion of being Mr. Meade's enemy. In July 1791, she wrote to Mrs. Gunning, "Don't tell Mr. Meade half what is said, "it will make him mad." To Archdeacon Coham, July 1791, "I leave it to your discretion, "my dear sir, to tell him what you think proper, "afraid of his knowing the worst."* To the same, in the same month, "The will business is the "matter of importance to be cleared up, to be "sure; but to whom? not to Mr. Meade's friends; "not merely to the Daubenys; but certainly to "my friends, who alone are the people infected." To Mrs. Gunning, July 1791, "Be sure you don't "tell Mr. S——s that Mr. Daubeney is concerned; "nothing would mortify him so much." To Archdeacon Coham, Aug. 1791, "Mr. Daubeney "must not be spoken to, for my aim is to keep "him out of fight." To her sister Mrs. Daubeney, August 1791, "I was anxious to a degree that "the fresh alarms about his character should not "be supposed to come from Mr. Daubeney." To her aunt Mrs. Ravenhill, in the spring of 1792,

* These letters are in Mr. Meade's possession.

“ God only knows the sorrow I have felt on Mr.
 “ Daubeny’s account, that he has brought things
 “ to such a pass, that one character cannot be
 “ cleared, but at the expence of the other.”

In a letter, October 1791, from Dr. Blayney to Miss Barnston, he remonstrates with her on the idleness of her endeavours to screen Mr. Daubeny. “ He is not now,” says Dr. Blayney, “ *to be made* “ a bitter enemy; he is already a declared and “ implacable one. It is idle to think of leaving “ *him* out, who has been the most active in the “ abuse. Recollect what you have acknowledged “ to have heard imputed to Mr. Meade; and *by* “ *whom* have you heard it imputed? Who has “ represented Mr. Meade in such an odious light “ to your mother, and poisoned her mind with “ calumnies? Not Mr. James Daubeny nor Mr. “ J. Daubeny, but the person *whom you wish to* “ *spare*. All your relations have imbibed from “ one and the same mouth their prejudices against “ Mr. Meade.” Miss Barnston to her sister Mrs. M. Barnston, early in 1792, from Mr. Sikes’s house. “ Unless you can effect some condescension on “ Mr. Daubeny’s part, it is in vain to talk of “ peace. You grieve me to the soul, but I cannot “ help you. I know you think, that because I “ shall be summoned, I take part against Mr. “ Daubeny. God forbid! I go there no more “ voluntarily than you will; nor shall I say more

“ than the law will compel me to. People are
 “ obliged to appear, I understand, and bound by
 “ oath to say what they know. Mr. Daubeney
 “ knows as well as I do what he has said to me.
 “ I charge you, as you love your family, that the
 “ steps you now take must be to conciliate, if you
 “ would do them real service. I am, your most
 “ afflicted, but most affectionate sister,

“ C. BARNSTON.”

“ P.S. Pray read this to Aunt Ravenhill, and
 “ advise with her what to do.”

Nothing was plainer, than that as Miss Barnston from the first conceived it necessary that Mr. Meade should know the charges against him, in order to explain them and to clear himself; so she wished that not a word more should be related to him than was necessary for that purpose. It was her earnest request that nothing should be needlessly repeated, which might irritate angry parties; but that by benevolently concealing what might prevent future reconciliation, she might lay a foundation, as far at least as she could do, for a return of good-will, when passion should subside.

This reserve, arising from the purest motives of the heart, and chiefly in favour of Mr. Daubeney himself, the Bishop of Lincoln, forgetting that a

soft word sometimes turns away wrath, has thought proper to term *deceit*. And because Mrs. Meade expressed or wrote, "that when she was required "in a court of law to speak the whole truth on "oath, there was an end of benevolent reserves;" his Lordship again argues as if he had discovered something allied to *perjury*. But in this part of his manuscript the pointing and the narrative are so confused, that Mr. Meade has not always been clear whether the sentiments and expressions are those of the Bishop, or of Mr. Daubeny; whether they mean to state Mrs. Meade's words, or Mr. Daubeny's deductions; whether they are implications from her silence, or constructions of what her opponents express for her.

But the idea of betraying confidence did not enter into Miss Barnston's mind. When persuaded that Mr. Meade was persecuted for no other cause than his attachment to her, could she in honour have done otherwise than inform him of what was said in his absence to the ruin of his character, that he might be prepared to vindicate it? There was still another reason that urged her to do as she did, which was, that her own happiness seemed to be interested in it. Notwithstanding Mr. Daubeny's influence with her mother and *some* of her relations, there was a very respectable branch of the family who saw nothing to object to Mr. Meade on account of

Mr. Daubeny's quarrel with him. By these Mr. Meade was encouraged to renew his addresses in January 1791, when their united intentions were frustrated by alarming insinuations of great criminality respecting a will. But Miss Barnston having discovered in the course of time much injustice in these insinuations, her consequent determinations, together with the interference of her relations, must have prevailed, if Mr. Daubeny had not come forward in time with his shocking allegations. Then it was, that her friends represented to her the impossibility of their countenancing a connexion with a person, whose character was questionable; and pointed out the necessity of Mr. Meade clearing himself, if he could. Her own ideas corresponded exactly with those of her friends. She could not bear to marry a man of blasted reputation, and persuaded, as she might afterwards have been, of his blamelessness and integrity, her own honour, she thought, required that the world should think well of him too. What then was she to do? She was not enjoined secrecy by Mr. Daubeny as to what he reported to her. On the contrary, "If I had asked Mr. Daubeny, (says she, in a letter to her mother) whether I should tell it again, he would have said, Yes, with all my heart." And again, in a letter to her sister, "I told Mr. Meade and Dr. Blayney what Mr. Daubeny told me,

“ as coming from his brothers ; I said, as you said,
 “ that he was not the author of this affair ; and
 “ I knew he did not care for my repeating what
 “ he told me, because it did not come from him,
 “ and because he said they had themselves in-
 “ formed Mr. Meade of the particulars.” In
 fact Miss Barnston did not at the time believe
 that Mr. Daubeny had spoken any thing from
 himself, but at second-hand from his brothers,
 who were prepared, as he told her, to make good
 their assertions. She therefore supposed they
 would do as he said, and that matters would be
 brought to a discussion between them and Mr.
 Meade, (*not in a court of law, which never entered
 into her head, but before a meeting of friends*) when
 she hoped that Mr. Meade would be able to make
 his innocence appear, to the satisfaction even of
 his accusers. And thus she flattered herself with
 the momentary belief, that she might become the
 means of reconciling persons, who through mis-
 apprehension only had been estranged from each
 other. Unhappily she was but too soon convinced
 that nothing less was meant than to allow Mr.
 Meade an opportunity of vindicating himself from
 the charges which had been brought against him.
 But on which side soever the proposed arbitration
 failed, it certainly was not her fault that it did so.
 Her misery on the occasion was extreme, and can-
 not be better expressed than by stating the letters

that passed between her and her friends before the trial; some of them pressing and terrifying her from giving any evidence in Court, others urging every argument to convince her of the duty and necessity of it. Her mother wrote to her thus: " I must tell you, that if Mr. Meade " begins with law, your brother (Mr. Daubeny) " will go on with it, and other persons in the " family be brought forward; in which case your " mother, if God enables her, must appear to " give evidence against her daughter, as she will " not sit quiet, and see her son-in-law's character " sacrificed to Mr. Meade."

About the same time another letter from Mr. Sikes to Mr. Goddard was shewn to Miss Barnston, in which were the following words: " Mrs. " Barnston sees her daughter's conduct in appear- " ing against Mr. Daubeny in such a light, that " the mother and daughter can never see each " other again, if she goes into Court."

Miss Barnston was so distressed by these letters, that she wrote to Mr. Meade in the following language: " My comfort is for ever broken up ; " alienated from my mother, and driven to ap- " pear a chief evidence against a brother, with " whom for twelve years I lived in perfect amity " and friendship, and the husband of my dearest " sister, the whole world is indifferent to me ; " and what was once a paradise of peace and

“ harmony, is now a scene of wretchedness and
 “ discord. If you must pursue law, I only pray,
 “ that I may die when the trial is over.”

In the same afflicted stile she wrote also to Mr
 Coham and Dr. Blayney, and she received the
 following answers.

Archdeacon COHAM to Miss BARNSTON.

“ Dear Madam, *Potterne, May 1792.*

“ I received your distressing letter, and could
 “ fill this with lamenting your hard case; but nei-
 “ ther charity to your relations, nor your own
 “ reluctances, must be indulged to the injury of
 “ my friend or his cause. You know that Dr.
 “ Blayney was always an advocate for arbitration;
 “ but now he doubts with me. If our virtue
 “ seem somewhat austere, you are to consider
 “ what two rigid masters you have to serve,
 “ truth and justice; these must be your counsellors
 “ for consolation.

“ I am, dear Madam, &c.

“ A. COHAM.”

Dr. Blayney, finding that she still wanted great
 support to satisfy her mind, and strengthen it for
 an appearance in Court, expressed himself in the
 following energetic terms.

“ Dear Madam, *Poughkeepsie, May 27, 1792.*

“ With respect to your personal distress,
 “ heaven knows how sincerely I pity you, and
 “ would go a great way to relieve you, if I
 “ knew how to do it without violating the prin-
 “ ciples of honour, justice, and friendship. But
 “ can I persuade Mr. Meade, would you even
 “ wish he should be persuaded, to sacrifice the
 “ dearest interests of his life, for the sake of spa-
 “ ring you those uneasy sensations of which you
 “ are so apprehensive? Call to mind, how often
 “ you have yourself urged upon him the necessity
 “ of vindicating his character. Nor can you now
 “ think of giving him up, without incurring even
 “ greater infamy than would fall to his share.
 “ How am I shocked at hearing of a parent, of
 “ relations, and friends, soliciting you to bid de-
 “ fiance to every moral and religious consideration,
 “ and pressing you to prostitute your conscience,
 “ for the sake of sparing an unfeeling brother-in-
 “ law (a most unfeeling one he has been to you)
 “ a disgrace which he has, you know, most auda-
 “ ciously provoked. I will not say with what
 “ eye the laws of their country will be disposed
 “ to regard and resent such pernicious attempts
 “ to corrupt the evidence which public justice
 “ calls for; but I will be bold, as a Christian Mi-
 “ nister, to say, that in the sight of God they are

“ most abominably wicked. For what in the name
 “ of God do they tempt you to do? You cannot
 “ evade appearing in Court, whither you are sum-
 “ moned. It is well known what you have already
 “ openly and voluntarily declared: and do they ex-
 “ pect you publicly to falsify and contradict yourself?
 “ Do they expect you to prevaricate in the face
 “ of God and the world? Do they require you
 “ to perjure yourself, by suppressing one tittle of
 “ the truth? Heaven forbid that you should be
 “ so profligately wicked, and at once give up all
 “ hopes of both present and eternal happiness!
 “ Did Mr. Meade’s cause require any such support,
 “ believe me, I would instantly and with abhor-
 “ rence renounce it. But no such thing; truth,
 “ and truth only, is its sure ground of dependence.
 “ They terrify you with threats of bringing your
 “ mother into Court to swear against you; trust
 “ me, they dare not do it; they dare not expose
 “ her to public examination. How much soever
 “ under undue influence, I cannot believe her so
 “ unprincipled as to deliver an evidence upon
 “ oath contrary to truth. And you must know
 “ how much her speaking what she knows
 “ to be true, must serve Mr. Meade’s cause. No-
 “ thing but pity and compassion for her and for
 “ you has prevented Mr. Meade from subpœna-
 “ ing her. But if she appear, let the inhumanity
 “ be with those that brought her forward; she

“ must be closely and strictly interrogated. Your
 “ situation, Madam, I must confess to be a hard
 “ one. You are called to a severe trial, a pain-
 “ ful struggle between natural affection and con-
 “ science. But the greater the difficulty the
 “ greater will be your reward, if you steadfastly
 “ persevere in doing what is right. The laws of
 “ God, you know, are ever to be preferred to the
 “ will of man; nor are we at liberty to comply
 “ with the requisitions of an earthly parent, when
 “ inconsistent with those eternal obligations of
 “ truth and justice, which are laid upon us by our
 “ Heavenly One. On the contrary, our religion
 “ expressly requires us to give up the nearest and
 “ dearest relations, rather than forego one of those
 “ primary duties, which it enforces on our practice.
 “ ‘ He that loveth father or mother more than me,
 “ ‘ is not worthy of me.’ Do they threaten you
 “ then with breaking off all connection with you?
 “ Fear them not. If they forsake you for doing
 “ what is just and right, there is yet one that will
 “ take you up, that both can and will compensate
 “ the loss by other friends. And dread not the
 “ reproach of men, whilst you have the testimony
 “ of your own conscience in your favour, and the
 “ certainty of being approved by Almighty God.
 “ But should you be prevailed upon to do, what
 “ God and your own heart must condemn, you
 “ may well tremble for the consequences; the

“ loss of peace of mind here, and eternal misery
“ hereafter.

“ You will pardon me, Madam, for having thus
“ taken upon me to remind you of your duty;
“ not that I think you ignorant of it, but to keep
“ you stedfast under trial, and to oppose the arti-
“ fices of those who would mislead you. Let
“ Mr. S. if you please, or any other, see what I
“ have written; if they can disprove it, let them
“ do it; if not, let them cease to trouble you.

“ I purpose being in London on Tuesday; I glory
“ in standing by Mr. Meade, as an oppressed and
“ injured man; and I trust I shall not be ashamed
“ of the justice of his cause. You know my
“ principles, and as far as they allow, I shall be
“ ever happy to approve myself, Madam,

“ Your most obedient humble servant,

“ BENJAMIN BLAYNEY.”

Mr. Goddard also wrote to her thus, “ I am
“ more and more confirmed, that it is indispen-
“ sably necessary that the prosecution be conti-
“ nued, so as to obtain a legal decision, be the
“ issue what it may; as there is no other method
“ for the justification of Mr. Meade’s character,
“ in which your own is involved; it is an act of
“ justice you owe to yourself to vindicate it.
“ Conciliatory measures are never to be departed

“ from when they can be adopted; but unfortun-
 “ nately these have been excluded; not by you,
 “ nor by Mr. Meade, but by his opponent, on
 “ whom solely the whole blame must rest, in
 “ having driven Mr. Meade to the necessity of
 “ obtaining a public justification.—How could
 “ you respect a man under a stigma in the world;
 “ would not the world say, you cared not what
 “ his character is, provided you married him?—
 “ He made, or acceded more than once to, pro-
 “ posals of arbitration, which by one or other
 “ quirk were as repeatedly evaded by his oppo-
 “ nent; this is a solace to you. I hold character
 “ in a very different light from money transactions;
 “ however ready I might be to sacrifice money
 “ for peace, I would not suffer character to be
 “ frittered away. Can they be your friends, who
 “ advise you to the contrary?

“ Our hearts and doors are ever open to you;
 “ deny us not the gratification of keeping up
 “ your spirits, and affording you every comfort
 “ by proving to you the sincerity of our friendship
 “ and attachment. I am, &c.

“ JOHN GODDARD.”*

These, together with Mr. Goddard's personal
 attendance, on whose judgment she greatly relied,

* Mr. Meade has the original draft in Mr. Goddard's writing.

enabled her to go through the difficult and painful task allotted to her; in doing which her conscience does not reproach her with the least wilful exaggeration, or deviation from the truth.

What candid mind, then, must not perceive the cruelty and injustice of taxing her with being accessory to her brother-in-law's punishment, when her appearance in Court, and the evidence she gave there, were imposed upon her by strong necessity, and could not be evaded, without violating the most sacred obligations of duty, religion, and honour?

When the Bishop pretends to give the character of Mrs. Meade in her family, from whom is his character of her drawn? Is it from her only Uncle? her only Aunt? any one of her numerous and respectable Cousins? old Friends, Acquaintances, or Connections of the family? Is it from any of her Neighbours, rich or poor? No, in truth! His Lordship has given a long letter, and has thought proper, irrelevant as it is, to quote it in full, written to Mr. Daubeny by a friend of his, a total stranger to Mr. and Mrs. Meade, having never seen either of them in his life; a gentleman who married one of the junior ladies of the family, a niece of Mrs. Meade's, some years after Mr. Daubeny's trial, and who knows nothing of Mr. or Mrs. Meade, but through Mr. Daubeny and his friends, and whose letter was a reply to

Mr. Daubeny's own statement! What can his Lordship's object be in this? Is there one argument or proof brought forward on the questions at issue? His Lordship could not feel pleasure merely in reciting such letters* against a lady; still less could he feel gratification in promoting family discord, rather than harmony!

But for Mrs. Meade's character, an appeal might be made from the Bishop's prejudices, and from the resentments of Mr. Daubeny, to Mr. Daubeny himself in his temperate days; and on this occasion, it is presumed not one of her family can deny the facts. From her youth up to the middle age of her life; that is, from the age of eighteen to thirty-two, no one knew her better, few so well as himself. She lived almost wholly in his society; she was as a second mother to his children, and his value and esteem of her had their foundation in a most intimate acquaintance and unprejudiced judgment. During the whole of that period, she continued his favourite and friend, his constant companion, confidante, and counsellor; his expressions were the most affectionate towards her, and his confidence in her un-

* Mrs. Meade sincerely laments that any of her connections are deluded. She is not unacquainted with the means adopted to excite and to keep up that delusion; and she can for that reason the more easily excuse it. She would hope that the time is not distant when they may see their mistakes, which they cannot be more desirous, than she will be ready, to forget.

bounded. But the moment that the affections of her heart disposed her to marry, he first tried all means to defeat her plans, and afterwards never ceased to be her cruellest, bitterest enemy. Since her marriage, he knows nothing of her character as a wife or a mother, as the mistress of a family, or a neighbour; but those that do know her would tell his Lordship, that there does not live a woman of a more pure and spotless name; nor one whose character is more beloved and esteemed, by all who are acquainted with it.

Mr. Meade can well believe that the Bishop was at first completely deceived, and that, as naturally as the dropping of water hollows a stone, his Lordship caught the prejudices of inflamed parties and partizans, to whom he had confined himself, and soon became a decided enemy to Mr. and Mrs. Meade. His name and zeal excited high expectations in his party, and he encouraged them; so that he seems to have forgotten even his own idea of his being a *judge*, for in the outset of his manuscript he says that he shall "*endeavour*" to prove that what Mrs. Meade solemnly swore was false; and "that the subject was important, *as it involved Mr. Daubeny's character,*" without any feeling for Mrs. Meade's. How else would any gentleman have voluntarily applied to a lady such expressions, as "*incorrect principles,*"—"deceit,"—"lying,"—"false-swearing,"—"perjury," and such

like? What but the madness of prejudice could make him overlook a number of contradictions recited by himself? In the first document he quotes, he saw the difficulty of finding out some plausible objections for Mrs. Barnston against Mr. Meade. She avers "that her objections were prior to the affairs abroad." Again, "that the affairs abroad were the ground of her objections." "She and her daughter Mrs. M. Barnston attested a paper which would have been important for Mr. Daubeny's cause, but it came too late for the trial;" forgetting *that Mrs. M. Barnston was at the trial*. Mrs. Barnston says, "that Mr. Daubeny did not influence her by his accounts;" again, "that her opinion was fully decided by these accounts." "Mr. Meade's treatment of Mrs. Barnston affected her objections;" and, "her objections were said to be prior to this treatment." The Bishop recites Mrs. Barnston stating Miss Barnston to have sworn, "that her mother *was desirous* of her marrying Mr. Meade;" that "her mother *wished* *it*;" &c. Miss Barnston swore no such thing. His Lordship continues his recital, "that nothing could alter Mrs. Barnston's opinion." This language, though neither natural to a parent, nor to the mind of Mrs. Barnston, was much in character with those who conveyed to her the false accounts of her daughter's oath, or who prepared a paper

for her to sign on the subject. His Lordship quotes Mrs. Barnston saying "that her daughter was to judge for her own happiness." And he also quotes Mr. Daubeny desiring "*that the mother* would judge for her daughter's happiness." Perhaps they would all have done better to have left an independent woman at thirty to judge for her own happiness, especially when all the objections specified against the man she chose, seem to be, "that he was born in Ireland."

Why does the Bishop pass over, "that the letter mentioned to have been written by Mrs. Meade to her sister *was an answer to one received?* Why not give Mrs. M. Barnston's *first* letter, and Mrs. Meade's answer? Can it be, because that *first* letter proves "that Mrs. Meade *did not* make the "required confessions so falsely imputed to her?" How does it happen, that the Bishop never quotes but for one side? Mrs. M. Barnston's letter was sent express by *Mr. Daubeny* to Mrs. Meade, the morning after the interview, and was the first step* taken after it.

The Bishop again says, "that Mrs. Meade did not mention, in any letter to Mr. Daubeny or other relations, the words she swore to have heard from him:" and therefore he would infer that Mr. Daubeny never uttered them. But if he had read Miss Barnston's letters, even those

* See it in the history of the interview in the Appendix.

which were before his eyes, he would have seen that she mentioned it over and over again; not to Mr. Daubeny; for why should she? It is difficult to conceive a reason for her telling him what he had told her; but to her intimates, whom it concerned to know it, she mentioned it, and wrote it almost every day from July to October. But it was Mr. Daubeny's aim to keep himself out of fight; and to insinuate both to Miss Barnston, and to every one else, that all the suspicions and charges respecting the will originated with his brothers, and not with him. Miss Barnston at first believed it to be so; and afterwards, when she had good reasons for altering her opinion, she concealed her real sentiments, and spoke to him and of him in the most favourable terms, in prospect of differences being in time reconciled, and family peace restored. "My aim," says she, in a letter to Mrs. Gunning, December 1791, "has been all along to keep Mr. Daubeny out of fight; any thing to counteract this widens the breach, not between Mr. Meade and Mr. Daubeny, but with all my family." But whether Mr. Daubeny was or was not the inventor, it was he who adopted and propagated the slander, and therefore it was Mr. Daubeny alone whom Mr. Meade could make accountable for it.

But there was another evidence besides Miss Barnston's which was intended and ought to

have been called for at the trial. Why it was omitted is not easy to say; except it was that the counsel saw the fact sufficiently proved without it. In the interview which Miss Barnston had with the Rev. Mr. Hooker, at Mr. Daubeny's house, in July 1791, Mr. Hooker told her, "that he had heard every thing from Mr. Daubeny about the will;" he even told her, "that Mr. Meade's particular friends did not care to have any thing to do in it;" and he added, "that if the quarrel between Mr. Daubeny and Mr. Meade could be adjusted, the will business was too serious a matter not to be rigidly scrutinized;" and he advised her "to guard herself with caution." But the Bishop says, "there is no evidence of the conversation between Miss Barnston and Mr. Daubeny." What evidence can there be of the *private conversation* of two persons, but the oath of the parties, and records made of the conversation at the time? For the direct testimony, see Mrs. Meade's uncontradicted oath, near fourteen years on record. For the collateral evidence, see her various letters and journals already quoted, and ask her intimate friends; for although some are dead, yet many still survive.

And when his Lordship says, "that no other witness was called to prove the conversation," in the name of wonder, what witness could he expect? He could never expect that Mr. Daubeny

would turn against himself; and he only was present. But when his Lordship adds, “that evidence was produced that Mr. Daubeny held a different language in his family;” what does he mean by *evidence*? Is the uncontradicted oath of a dispassionate witness no evidence; and the word of an interested man, against whom a verdict on that very ground stands recorded, received by the Bishop as good evidence? In what court or code is this usage found? Has not the Bishop seen, that on the continent Mr. Daubeny endeavoured to prevent Miss Barnston attaching herself to Mr. Meade, on *his own** account, and on his own account solely? And that on his return to England he found it expedient to urge the more plausible pretence of breach of promises, and of ill treatment of himself? And that when both of these pleas were rejected by the thinking and independent part of Miss Barnston’s family, insinuations about a will were brought forward, and became a more serious engine in his hands? And that when he saw this last business must bring him into a court of law, then he might conveniently have held a different language, just enough to screen himself, leaving the plot to work for itself? His Lordship may rest assured that there were few of the Barnston family, but must have given a testimony, not inconsistent with Miss Barn-

* See his own words in his letter already quoted.

ston's, if they also had been put *on their oaths*, as she was.

His Lordship's language as he proceeds is very extraordinary indeed! Who before him ever presumed to insinuate, "that Mrs. Meade was "convicted of false swearing?" *Convicted!* What does he mean? Does his Lordship, with all his references to courts and legal usage, know the import of these words? Does he forget the trial and the verdict? Is such an assertion consistent with justice, or truth, or decency, or law? Regardless, however, of direct or collateral evidence, he presumes to say, applying it to Mrs. Meade, "that where a witness is convicted of "false swearing in one instance, his or her testimony deserves no credit!" But Mr. Meade will leave the reader to judge of this language, and proceed with the Bishop's paper.

How his Lordship can speak of "*the improbability*" of Mr. Daubeny's saying any thing to prevent the match is wonderful, after he had seen Mr. Daubeny's own acknowledgment in his letter* to Miss Barnston; and after he had heard of his language before Mrs. Gunning; and after his Lordship had related Mr. Daubeny's endeavours, in the presence of Mrs. Ravenhill, to secure Miss Barnston from marrying Mr. Meade. All the world knew, that from the first moment he suspected an attachment at Spa, he proceeded from one degree

* Already quoted.

of contrivance to another “to prevent,” as he expressed it to Mrs. Gunning, “Mr. Meade from “carrying off a second 10,000l. from the family.” And as to what Mr. Daubeny says “that he “related to Miss Barnston, at his house in the “Crescent, in regard to *other circumstances* that “happened at Spa;” she being little interested in that part of the conversation, can neither say whether it is true or false. But it is wholly irrelevant, and the Bishop saw it was so, and by no means proves that Mr. Daubeny did not say the words which she deposed to.

The Bishop says, “Mr. Daubeny *is ready* to swear to the *substance*.” Mrs. Meade *has* sworn to the *words*! His Lordship and Mr. Daubeny *infer* what her sentiments were. She has *sworn* to her own!

The Bishop’s remark “on the consummate address with which Mr. Meade’s papers are drawn “up,” is very unexpected; because Mr. Meade never considered his papers as drawn up in any order, or indeed drawn up at all. They were merely *detached* descriptions of passing circumstances, with the original letters, or their copies connected with them, and committed to writing at the time, as the events occurred, during the last twelve years. They could be no answer to an adversary’s statement, which Mr. Meade had not seen. But the Bishop’s remark appears to be made for the purpose of contrasting Mr. Meade’s

head with his heart; for it is followed by the assertion, "that there is a want of correct principle in both Mr. and Mrs. Meade." An assertion, supported by so unfair a representation of *a fact* before his Lordship's eyes, that it is presumed his Lordship again owes it to his character to make an acknowledgment for his own want of correctness; by which, from whatever cause it proceeded, he has shewn himself unfit for the office *he assumed* of a judge *in this case*. His Lordship ventures to quote Mr. Meade as justifying a violation of promises, on grounds so palpably unsupported by the paper from which he quoted, that a more marked instance of partiality or carelessness was perhaps never exhibited. The paper from which the Bishop professes to quote, was written by Mr. Meade, and was one of those which he entrusted to his Lordship on his application; describing, among other matters, the nature of certain promises obtained by Mr. Daubeny from Mr. Meade and Miss Barnston separately, the object of the promises being to prevent their ever thinking of each other with a view to marriage.

In page 8 of that paper, it is said, "But
 "Mr. Daubeny's conduct soon appeared very
 "unjustifiable. For availing himself of the affec-
 "tion and confidence of two persons not less in-
 "dependent than himself, he represented each to
 "the other in such a light as to deceive both effectually."

Again, in pages 35, 36, 38, "Mr. Daubeny requested of Miss Barnston a *sacrifice* out of friendship to himself; adding, that Mr. Meade had spoken of her with indifference, and even *with disrespect*." Again; "and that sacrifice Mr. Daubeny obtained, not *by misrepresentations only*, and by engaging each separately not to mention the subject to the other; but by addressing both soon after their meeting, and before their minds could be decided on the subject." Again; "the sacred manner of appealing, which Mr. Daubeny ascribes to Mr. Meade, he absolutely disavows; although it makes little difference to him whether it be true or false; because it is clear that no one is morally or religiously answerable for promises, made with good faith, *but obtained by false representations*." Again; "the 'offence,' says Mr. Daubeny, 'is, that he was deceived by Miss Barnston, and that Mr. Meade broke his solemn word.' Admitting this for a moment to be true, without any qualification; and admitting what is true, *that such conduct* would be *weak, unfortunate, and highly reprehensible*; yet would it not perhaps be criminal to *that degree, and to that extent*, in which Mr. Daubeny would have it to appear; for the ingenuity of malice cannot discover the most distant sentiment of unkindness or injury to any one living; and the heart might have been sincere in

“ assurances, which it was unable to fulfil. But
 “ if every promise was obtained by imposition, then
 “ perhaps there will be little question as to the
 “ intentions of Mr. and Mrs. Meade, and the part
 “ they should have acted.”

It was plain that *deception, misrepresentation, and imposition*, were the grounds, all through that paper, on which Mr. Meade expressed the promises not to be binding. But the Bishop was pleased to suppress Mr. Meade's reasons, and to supply others for him, “ charging him,” in a philippic of some pages, “ with a want of correct principles, in
 “ justifying a breach of solemn promises on the
 “ ground that Miss Barnston and himself were
 “ independent, and travelled with Mr. Daubeny
 “ at a joint expence;” asserting, “ that Mr. Meade
 “ calls a violation of sacred promises *reserve*,” and adding, “ that deceit led Mr. and Mrs. Meade
 “ to a disregard of truth;” and this to false swearing, &c. with much more such language as this.*

* Mr. Meade pointed out distinctly to his Lordship these his own misrepresentations; who, although he could not deny them, did not think proper to apologise for them. On the contrary, he adopted a singular ground for defence. “ Mr. Daubeny's conduct might
 “ have been exactly what you state it to have been,” says his Lordship, “ yet would it not justify a breach of promise in you and
 “ Mrs. Meade.” How far the Bishop acted justly in misrepresenting a paper confided to his honour, or liberally, in not acknowledging it, Mr. Meade will not decide. But when his Lordship avers that persons are bound by promises obtained by imposition and deception, (for these are exactly what Mr. Meade stated) Mr. Meade appeals with confidence from his Lordship to the sense of mankind.

In Mr. Meade's paper just mentioned, and which was misrepresented as above, it was stated, " that " Mr. Meade did at one time, while abroad, " propose to open his mind to Mr. Daubeny, not " in confidence, but in reproach; that there could " be no reason for his not doing so, for that neither " he or Miss Barnston owed Mr. Daubeny any " duties, nor even hospitality; for they were a " party of brothers and sisters, all equal, travelling " together at a joint expence. But that on Miss " Barnston's account there were invincible reasons against his doing as he proposed; for she " was not only subject to him while they travelled, " but much at his mercy, from the representations " he might and probably would make, by letters, " to poison her family at home against Mr. Meade. " She therefore resolved, in common prudence and " necessity, to adopt a plan of the strictest reserve " while she was abroad only;" intending on her return home to endeavour to obtain from Mr. Daubeny's justice and affection a release from her promises, rather than to insist on it by charging him with unfairness in obtaining them. But even the scripture itself may be attacked with a momentary success, as Mr. Meade's paper has been. Select a few passages, keep back a few sentences, don't mind the context, and the work is effected. The learned Archdeacon Paley has well observed, " that by suppressing evident facts

“ to gratify any prejudices, the best historians
 “ would lose all authority, and sink into the cha-
 “ racter of party writers.”

It was with great surprize Mr. Meade perceived a reluctance in the Bishop of Lincoln to see him. He had flattered himself, that when his Lordship was assured that his whole paper was full of mistakes, he would be anxious to see the gentleman, whose wife's character he had attacked; and would pause, before he suffered any invectives to appear in public under his name. On this ground it was that Mr. Meade was requested by three clergymen to propose a meeting with his Lordship, which the Bishop thought proper to decline; and in the mean time his paper was eagerly circulated by his connexions. Like an infallible judge, his Lordship conveys his sentence to the party he condemns; as if he would pronounce; “ you
 “ think yourselves protected, because a law-suit
 “ terminated in your favour thirteen years ago;
 “ but *I* have overturned the judgment of law; *I*
 “ have pronounced the verdict erroneous, and a
 “ principal witness perjured; *I* have tried the
 “ cause again, although one of the parties knew
 “ nothing of my intentions, for *I* am not like
 “ ordinary judges, who see and hear *both* parties.
 “ Having thus condemned you here, I refer you
 “ to the everlasting judgment of Him, whom *I*

“ know better than yourselves that you have
“ offended.”

But from the Bishop of Lincoln’s opinion Mr. Meade begs to refer the reader to another divine, not so high in rank as his Lordship, but in learning and integrity equal to any one, the late Regius Professor of Hebrew in the University of Oxford. No man studied this affair more, and no man so well understood it, as Dr. Blayney. He was near a twelvemonth corresponding* on it with Mr. Daubeny and his friends, and having heard and weighed the arguments, he has left his solemn judgment on this case, directly opposite to the hasty opinion which the Bishop of Lincoln has given.

After detailing all the circumstances, as between A. and B. and C.† he concludes with a
“ *Question*. Whether, under the circumstances
“ stated, the parties are bound by the ties of honour and conscience to an observance of promises so exacted and so given?”

“ *Answer*. I am clearly of opinion, from the
“ above statement of facts, supposing it to be just,

* His account of his correspondence on the subject was by his permission printed in a pamphlet which Mr. Meade wrote eleven years ago, as an answer to a former attack of Mr. Daubeny. A few copies of which Mr. Meade still has.

† The whole is an admirable composition, and a fine specimen of just reasoning. The original is in Mr. Meade’s possession, who has been always disposed to shew this or any other document quoted or referred to in this book, to gentlemen whom a liberal motive induced to wish to see it.

“ that neither *A.* nor *B.* are under any obligation
 “ whatever to fulfil promises made under such
 “ undue influence. It is not stated what interest
 “ *C.* had in the performance of these promises :
 “ but be it what it will, no man is allowed in
 “ justice to avail himself of his own wrong dealing.
 “ A court of equity would without any hesitation
 “ dissolve any obligation into which fraud or de-
 “ ception had entered : the act would not be
 “ deemed voluntary ; for it would be presumed
 “ that the will of the parties would not have con-
 “ curred in it, had the matter been stated as it
 “ ought to have been. And I see no reason why
 “ a court of honour and conscience should not
 “ upon the same principles determine in like
 “ manner. It was not just or honourable in *C.* to
 “ exact such promises by such means. But with
 “ respect to the parties that promised, I will take
 “ upon me to maintain, that if they are conscious
 “ they should not have entered into the engage-
 “ ment, but for the imposition ; they are as free
 “ in honour and conscience to follow the bent of
 “ their own inclinations, as if no such promise
 “ had ever existed. BENJ. BLAYNEY.”

To the above shall be added the opinion of
 another dignitary of the church, formed after
 reading the Bishop of Lincoln's papers ; and to
 whom, as a perfect stranger to Mr. Meade, these

papers, with all other necessary documents which the Bishop had seen, were referred by Mr. George Sandford, for the candid opinion of a dispassionate man.

“ TO GEORGE SANDFORD, Esq.

“ Dear Sir,

“ I return you Mr. Meade’s papers ; and after
 “ the most impartial investigation of them, with
 “ the Bishop of Lincoln’s reasoning on the subject,
 “ the result is a conviction in my own mind that
 “ Mr. Daubeny, unwilling that his sister-in-law
 “ should marry, did procure promises from her and
 “ Mr. Meade separately, not to proceed in such
 “ a connection ; who having discovered imposition
 “ that had been practised on them, no longer
 “ considered themselves bound by promises so ob-
 “ tained. That Mr. Daubeny having unbounded
 “ influence over Mrs. Barnston did prevail on her
 “ to oppose the match ; and though Mrs. Meade,
 “ very truly I believe, swore that she had obtained
 “ her mother’s consent ; yet I think it equally
 “ clear, that, under the influence of Mr. Daubeny,
 “ she did not wish her daughter to marry Mr.
 “ Meade. But I by no means consider this as
 “ inconsistent with Mrs. Meade’s oath ; and that
 “ Mr. Daubeny did endeavour to prevent the mar-
 “ riage, by aspersions on Mr. Meade’s character,
 “ is proved, I think, beyond a possibility of doubt.
 “ And therefore, with the verdict of a jury against

“ him, I cannot agree with the Bishop of Lincoln
 “ that he has in every respect acted with the
 “ strictest propriety. But on the other hand,
 “ with regard to Mr. and Mrs. Meade, their con-
 “ duct appears to me consistent with the strictest
 “ honour; and Mrs. Meade exhibits, in her con-
 “ duct and her letters, such an instance of filial
 “ piety and Christian charity, as is, I think, rarely
 “ to be met with.”

‘ The above is the opinion of a divine, a dig-
 ‘ nitary in our church, who was educated at
 ‘ Cambridge with the Bishop of Lincoln, and
 ‘ who never saw Mrs. Meade, nor Mr. Meade,
 ‘ until I laid before him the Bishop’s attack on
 ‘ them both in forty-one pages.

‘ GEORGE SANDFORD.*

If the Bishop of Lincoln had entered on this
 affair unprejudiced as others did, he would have
 asked Mr. Daubeny, “ what do you mean by the
 “ expressions you used to Miss Barnston in June
 “ 1790, when she told you that her mother had
 “ consented to her marrying, and desired her to go
 “ to persuade you, ‘ What do you think of my
 “ ‘ wife and me; are we to be *sacrificed*?’ What
 “ do you mean by reminding Miss Barnston, in
 “ your letter in July 1790, ‘ that she assured you
 “ ‘ abroad, that she would never *sacrifice* you or

* Mr. Meade has the original of this letter.

“ *Betsy to any man whatever?* ” What right had
 “ you to such a promise, supposing her to have
 “ made such? What just motive could have in-
 “ duced you to assume the government of a
 “ woman, upwards of thirty years of age, whose
 “ father had left her independent, and whose
 “ mother at all times declared her to be her own
 “ mistress? What pretence had you as a brother-
 “ in-law, or any man, to procure promises incon-
 “ sistent with her happiness, and binding her *for*
 “ *ever*; although if you really wished to know her
 “ mother’s opinion, ten days would have brought
 “ it to you? But did not the line you pursued
 “ answer your purpose better, by entangling her
 “ with promises, and then enforcing the obser-
 “ vance of them by the sanction of religion?”

The opinion of the Bishop, “ that it is *probable*
 “ Mr. Daubeny would have written home mildly
 “ and impartially to Miss Barnston’s friends,” is
 contradicted by facts, and by the event, and by
 Mr. Daubeny himself. What he *would have done*, is
 proved by what *he did*! But his Lordship should
 point out, why Miss Barnston should have men-
 tioned any attachment of her’s to her brother-in-
 law, if she did not in prudence or in her own
 judgment think proper to do so.

The Bishop says, “ *Indeed*, Mr. and Mrs. Dau-
 “ beny both repeatedly urged Miss Barnston to
 “ write to her mother!” *Indeed* they did *not*!

And in this case Mr. Daubeny must be the evidence against his Lordship; for in his letter to Miss Barnston, July 1790, he reminds her that at Spa, immediately after Mr. Meade's first arrival, and when Mr. Daubeny suspected that an attachment might take place, "she made decided promises against Mr. Meade;" he avers, "that his *confidence in her was implicit, and his gratitude so unbounded for the striking mark of her affection, that she could not suppose he could ever see the subject differently.*"* If he had then *at the very outset* obtained promises on which he *implicitly depended*, and which he received with *unbounded gratitude* as a mark of affection *to himself*, on a subject on which he could never change his opinion; how can he pretend to say, or how can any man of common sense believe, "that he urged Miss Barnston repeatedly to write for her mother's opinion?"

In the same letter he again asserts, that when they were returning to England from Italy, Mr. Meade having quitted the party, she assured him, "that though it might cost her a little, she would give up Mr. Meade, that she would never *sacrifice him*† or Betsey;" and he adds, "this was *the*

* The original is in Mr. Meade's possession.

† These are Mr. Daubeny's words; whether they were exactly Miss Barnston's words and meaning, is another question.

"*first time* you gave us to understand you were so deeply interested in Mr. Meade." If then this was the *first time* he heard it, will any one believe that he repeatedly urged her to write for her mother's opinion; and on a matter to which he confesses so much aversion, and which he could never see differently?

His Lordship says, "*Surely* there could be no other cause for her not writing to her mother, but the belief that it would be disagreeable to her." Mrs. Meade's oath proved that that was not the cause! It was Mr. Daubeny she was afraid of, not her mother. Her mother "*left her to please herself*;" Mr. Daubeny *bound her by promises*! She knew that if she had written to her mother from the Continent, the same post would probably have conveyed letters from Mr. Daubeny to prejudice her mother and her friends against Mr. Meade. Nor did she see occasion for writing; because she was convinced that a word of objection would never have been surmised against her choice by any of her family. But in short she did not write to her mother, because she did not want to marry abroad. She did not choose it. The Bishop asks, "Why she did not open the matter to her mother immediately on her coming home?"

If Mrs. Meade is to answer all the interrogatories of a cross-examiner, she would reply, "because she thought proper to wait until Mr.

“Meade should come to make her an offer,” which he did within a fortnight after her arrival. And secure, as she flattered herself, of her mother’s consent, and unwilling to charge Mr. Daubeny with deception, injustice, or unfair influence in obtaining promises from her abroad, she rather indulged the hope that when her happiness was declared to be at stake, he might be prevailed on to give way, and that family friendship might be thus restored.

His Lordship says, “that Mrs. Meade held a different language in her family, to what she swore to.” Vague as this charge is, it is founded in perversion. The Bishop should have asked Mr. Daubeny, “to what part of her family? To those she could trust in, or those she could not?” If a person practise against my honour and happiness, is *reserve* towards him *deceit*? Is it any wonder, if a man want to break into my house, that I do not shew him my fastenings? Mrs. Meade is ready now, as she was on former occasions, to acknowledge, that to those of her family under Mr. Daubeny’s influence, she did not always disclose the whole of her heart; because of what she did discover, Mr. Daubeny made a bad use. She in fact adopted a line of conduct to which she uniformly adhered. Earnest in endeavours for family peace, and having no hope of it but by conciliatory measures, she determined

years seemed to have worn out the sharpness of its remembrance, Mr. John Daubeny having occasion to write to Mr. Meade, did it with a kindness and civility that were highly creditable to him, and which Mr. Meade felt and acknowledged.

To the "*Three Questions*" gravely put at the beginning of the Bishop's sermon, Mr. Meade with equal *gravity* begs to refer to the Bishop himself for the answer. His Lordship can by this time give as satisfactory a reply to them as any one. And in return Mr. Meade would ask his Lordship *one* question. "Is it consistent with any principle of justice, of candour, or of common sense, that a person putting himself forward, and pretending to be a *judge* between two others, should associate with, and constantly listen to, and receive every impression which *one* party chose to give, and never think of seeing the *other*, nor ever let him know the evidence on which he was to be condemned; but on the contrary, when informed that the facts he quoted could be shewn to be false, and his authorities could be all disproved, should evade seeing the party who could set him right; and in the mean time suffer his judgment to be circulated?"

But from the Bishop's opinion that Mrs. Meade's mother, sisters, and other relations, that is, "those immediately connected with Mr. Daubeny," were required neither by religion nor morality to

live with Mr. and Mrs. Meade in terms of friendship until retribution be made,* whether it can be conscientiously made or not, Mr. Meade appeals to a divine of the old school, from whom Mrs. Meade quoted the following passage into the last letter she ever wrote to her mother:—"If any one offend, the evil is with him, and he has most cause to be troubled. Little injuries should not move us; if great, there is more magnanimity in forgiving; for it is the glory of a man to pass over a transgression. We must forgive one another, as God for Christ's sake forgives us. But *who* is to go to be reconciled; the offender, or the offended? *Both!* that reconciliation may be sure. If restitution be first required, if present satisfaction be demanded, we should rather chide our unbelieving hearts that cannot wait for that day when it will be better for the offended, and worse for the offender, if

* The Bishop seems afraid to state the question fairly. He seems to feel certain doubts. Therefore he does not pronounce "that religion and morality justify the everlasting separation of a *parent* from her child, of *sisters* from a *sister*;" but he includes all under the sweeping expression of "those immediately connected with Mr. Daubeney are neither required by religion or morality to live with Mr. and Mrs. Meade in terms of friendship until, &c." Does his Lordship mean roundly to say, "that it is justifiable to order servants to put away children from their grandmother's doors, and to refuse a daughter admittance into her mother's house, where she goes with christian solicitations for reconciliation and love?" for this is the way the question should be stated.

“ it be not done before.” And if on so important a subject as Christian Charity, Mr. Meade ventures to differ from a bishop,* he must plead impressions early imbibed from venerable divines now in their graves ; one of whom,† persuaded that on this very point Mrs. Barnston was mistaken when she quoted her Bible,wrote to her, “ that she used a commentator very different from his.” And indeed, under any other interpretation of scripture than the above, Mr. Meade professes himself incompetent to understand the christian doctrine and precept of charity, or to explain the meaning of St. Paul in the last verses of the 12th Epistle to the Romans, and 3d to the Colossians.

The reader, after perusing this pamphlet, which is in fact a vindication of the laws, as well as of individuals, will judge whether there can be traced in it “ self-deception,” “ sophistical reasoning,”

* In differing on this subject from the Bishop of Lincoln, and Archdeacon Daubeney, Mr. Meade has the satisfaction of finding himself supported by every clergyman, and every considerate layman, whom he knows. He finds that the doctrine of his opponents is not only new to him, but that the terms made use of are unintelligible. In those excellent letters quoted in the Appendix, Mr. Stevens having endeavoured, with christian persuasion, to prevail on Mr. Daubeney “ to suffer the children and grand-children of Mrs. Barnston to assemble round the good old lady, and with a kiss of love to bury every thing in oblivion ;” Mr. Daubeney wrote in reply that such conduct would not be “ christian charity,” but “ *christian folly!*” What these last words import, Mr. Daubeney and his friends must explain!

† Archdeacon Coham.

“deceitful practices,” “lying,” “false-swearing,” “perjury,” &c. ; for these are among the immoderate expressions which the Bishop of Lincoln misapplies to Mr. and Mrs. Meade. His Lordship would even be thought to feel tenderness for those whom he would thus brand with everlasting infamy, calling on them to *confess* all this complicated depravity, as a means “of reconciliation & honourable to both parties.” The world must judge on which side there is sophistry!

His Lordship having conveyed to Mr. Meade the above catalogue of black accusations, apologizes, with an appearance of seriousness, (which Mr. Meade considered as irony) for not sending this insult to him sooner; his Lordship even gravely expressing “*his sorrow* that he was not able to “do it before.” And his excuse for this attack on the honour of Mr. Meade’s family is a singular one, viz. that the latter, with confidence in his own cause, and with too unsuspecting liberality towards a stranger, had candidly *trusted* his Lordship with papers. “For (to use the Bishop’s words*) you had full power to withhold your “papers; and as you communicated them to me “immediately, and without any objection, I must “consider you as voluntarily† sending them to me.”

* In a letter, October 22, 1805.

† The Bishop should have stated that Mr. Meade sent his papers *not intentionally*, but that on application from his Lordship he voluntarily complied with what he conceived to be his Lordship’s wishes.

But supposing this to be correctly stated, did not Mr. Meade deserve at least the return of knowing that his Lordship proposed to re-judge the trial and the whole cause, on such papers as Mr. Meade might send him? Was Mr. Meade not entitled to the justice, if not to the civility, of an enquiry, whether the anecdotes, and stories, and representations of an opponent were admitted, or could be disproved? The world must judge, whether it is doing as a man would be done by, to circulate, in public and private, such an attack as the Bishop's, on the grounds which his Lordship adopted; endeavouring even to poison the *public mind*, by introducing the subject slyly, and as it were *obiter*, into respectable and popular publications of a literary kind, and unsuitable to the discussion of personal quarrels. If the characters of persons, even of persons whom the laws of the land have publicly protected, are to be thus at the mercy of an individual, who will venture to trust even a letter out of his hands?

Mr. Meade has had his conflict with Mr. Daubeny; and the laws have publicly pronounced upon it.

After a lapse of thirteen years, the Bishop of Lincoln has volunteered as a champion for Mr. Daubeny in the same cause. How his Lordship has succeeded in his part of the struggle, the world will judge.

And now having gone through the Bishop's paper, Mr. Meade will beg leave to apply to his Lordship his own words. "It requires great
 "firmness of mind to make confessions; and that
 "firmness can be derived only from this consider-
 "ation, that however humiliating confession may
 "be thought in this world, it will certainly be
 "profitable in the next. Let the Bishop consider
 "that he has done his utmost to deprive an inno-
 "cent woman of her character. She sincerely
 "forgives him, as a christian; and she hopes that
 "his Lordship, being undeceived, has magnani-
 "mity and justice enough to confess it."

Mr. Meade having finished his reply to the Bishop of Lincoln, and having shewn the prejudices with which his Lordship began the business, the unfair manner in which he conducted it, and the uncharitable conclusions deduced and propagated from it, must here take leave to make some general remarks on his Lordship's behaviour.

And it is in the first place to be observed, that his Lordship, having taken upon him an office, for which it is presumed he had Mr. Daubeny's vote, lays down, more than once, canons of evidence. Some material rules, however, he has overlooked; as that "to contradict *the oath* of a competent wit-

“ nefs, the private *assertion* of any person, much
 “ less of an interested party, is not considered as
 “ authority.

“ *Secondly*, That the best evidence, of which a
 “ case is capable, is always required.

“ *Thirdly*, That persons who were able, and
 “ were summoned, to attend at a trial, and did
 “ not venture to do so, are not permitted to stig-
 “ matize a judgment.

“ And, *fourthly*, That partizans, if listened to
 “ at all, should be heard with caution, and never
 “ implicitly relied on.”

If these rules were not observed, there would
 be no protection in the laws.

The Bishop complains that Mr. Meade did not
 produce original documents ; but his Lordship is
 mistaken. Mr. Meade sent him such original
 papers, as in his own judgment were necessary ;
 and to save trouble, he referred to other papers,
 and to persons, as he does in this pamphlet ; Mr.
 Meade conceiving it to be his Lordship's duty to
 wait on him, or on those persons to whom he
 referred, if it should be required to compare re-
 ferences with originals. But his Lordship never
 expressed for what purpose, or with what views, he
 was to peruse Mr. Meade's papers, nor hinted to
 Mr. Meade that he would wish for any other do-
 cuments than those he had. The intimation that
 his Lordship had seen all Mr. Daubeny's papers,

was too vague for Mr. Meade to meet every invention of an active mind. Mr. Meade sent to the Bishop such papers as he conceived would be sufficient to satisfy him, because they had satisfied every one else ; and he *promised to supply him* with any *farther* information, if he should wish for more. But Mr. Meade little expected that his character should, without any notice, be set afloat in the world by an unexampled torrent of shocking invectives, poured out against himself and his wife, in his Lordship's name; for, to use the words of the Bishop of Durham, to whom Mr. Daubeney had more than once applied, " he could not think " that any bishop, or any man, would take upon " himself the re-judging a cause that had been " already decided at law." And Mr. Meade, in the papers which he conveyed to the Bishop of Lincoln, having expressly told him so, did not send a single document respecting the trial! But his Lordship taking upon himself to decide on the trial, without any legal means of judging; and on Mrs. Meade's heart and intentions, without ever seeing her, endeavours to invalidate by perverted or mistaken scraps of letters, the testimony of an uncontradicted oath. And although his attention was by Mr. Meade's papers directed to the point, he will not suffer his eye to glance towards any of the motives that might have actuated Mr. Daubeney. He speaks decisively on a point which can

be known only to God; and will not admit even the supposition of Mr. Daubeny's influence in the Barnston family, of which there is positive proof.

Instead of putting those questions to Mrs. Meade at the end of his philippic, would it not have been more candid in the Bishop to have asked himself, "Is it consistent with any principle of justice, to make bold assertions to the injury of another's good name, without seeing the accused, as I have seen the accuser? Is it doing as I would be done by, to adopt facts, however plausible, from one party, without enquiring whether the other party could disprove them?"

These are plain questions: Will the Bishop be able to justify his conduct by the answer?

And before he ventured to decide against a verdict, his Lordship might have put some relevant questions to Mr. Daubeny. As, "If you owed it to the church, as you say, and to your own family, to defend your character, why did you not do it? If you were really unprepared for Miss Barnston's evidence, why did you not move for a new trial, when you had heard that evidence? If you thought it your duty, as a good citizen, to submit to a verdict, why have you without ceasing opposed it? If you publish to the world shocking charges against Mrs. Meade, why did you not produce them where they might have been examined?" And, "if you

“ you are striving to destroy her character, how
 “ can you affect tenderness* for her.” His Lord-
 ship might also have added, “ What was the rea-
 “ son, that after Mrs. Barnston had been made
 “ use of to threaten that she was determined to go
 “ into Court to oppose her daughter, what was
 “ the reason, that when Mr. Meade’s attorney
 “ served her with a subpoena, she cried out in
 “ terror to be let off; and that Mr. Meade, in-
 “ formed of her distress, sent her a message, thro’
 “ her sister Mrs. Ravenhill, that, whatever might
 “ be the inconvenience to him and his cause, he
 “ would not insist on her appearing in Court.”†

Instead of such obvious enquiries, his Lordship makes assertions which may suit any cause, and talks with most solemnity when his own is weakest. In order to give weight to a very erroneous

* The reader will recollect that Mr. Daubeny, who labours to brand Mrs. Meade with infamy, avers that he bore public disgrace with the loss of his money, rather than defend himself at the expense of wounding her character in court; yet his behaviour to her in court was so unfeeling, that he was ordered by Lord Kenyon to retire from it. And with all his excess of charity to her, he still pronounced it to be *christian folly* to admit of general oblivion and forgiveness.

† It was against the opinion of Dr. Blayney that Mr. Meade did not insist on Mrs. Barnston’s attending in Court. The Doctor, as well as Mr. Meade, was convinced that her evidence, *if given on oath*, must be important for Mr. Meade’s cause. See Dr. Blayney’s letter already printed. Mr. Meade dispensed with Mrs. Ravenhill’s attendance at the same time, and received her thanks for the indulgence. But his indulgence to Mrs. Barnston is turned against himself.

and unnatural paper, reflecting on Mrs. Meade, he gravely avers, " that it was dated the 11th of " June 1792, and *signed* by Mrs. Barnston herself."†

In describing Mrs. Meade's interview with her mother, his Lordship relates every thing for one side, not a word on the other. He states thus: " *Mr. Daubeny solemnly says,*" " *Mr. Daubeny solemnly declares, so and so.*" " *Mr. Daubeny sent an account to all the branches of the family.*" " *In deed! Mr. and Mrs. Daubeny did, so and so.*" " *The following is Mr. Daubeny's account ;*" which is related in full. " *Mrs. Meade gave a different account ;*" but not a word of it is mentioned. " *To which the following answer was given,*" all of which is recited.

Such is the style and mode of arguing *for one party*. On the other side, Mrs. Meade is convicted, " because Mr. Daubeny and his party aver, *that Mrs. Meade to this did not say any thing ;*" " *that*

† The Bishop makes great parade about the evidence of two or three papers *signed* by old people, who, for aught his Lordship knew, were misinformed, or dependent, or frightened. Did he ask, whether the papers were verified on oath? Whether those that *signed* them, first even read them by themselves? Whether they fairly enquired of unbiaſſed people into the truth of what they were called on to sign? Has it appeared on oath, that those who composed the papers were not interested parties or partizans? Has there been a cross-examination, or any examination? Or has the Bishop ascribed a legal solemnity to papers which were deficient in every legal character? And by such documents would he overturn the most solemn decisions of law? But after all, are the papers, even such as they are, any thing to the main questions?

" *Mrs. Meade gave no answer;*" " *that Mrs. Meade could not deny;*" &c.

When Mrs. Meade's character and conduct from her childhood are suggested as alone arguments against odious charges, " her character is " nothing to the purpose," his Lordship says; forgetting that he quoted, as an argument *against* her, the letter of a gentleman who never saw her; and that he had quoted as arguments for Mr. Daubeney, " that the late Archbishop of Canterbury approved of his nomination to the New-Church; that the Bishop of Salisbury made him " an archdeacon; that Bishop Mofs thought well " of him; and that the Bishop of Durham* understood from those that knew him, that he was " above censure and suspicion."

That these venerable and truly respectable Bishops did honour to any man, of whom they thought well, is unquestionable; and their notice of Mr. Daubeney is one, among many weighty reasons, for Mr. Meade's wishing that this whole affair should have sunk into oblivion. But the Bishop of Lincoln has *forced it* into notice; and whether he has served the cause of his friend, or the cause of religion, the world must now judge.

If anecdotes and stories recited on the authority of Mr. Daubeney shall appear to the reader abso-

* See, in the Appendix, the Bishop of Lincoln's correspondence with Mr. Meade.

lutely unfounded, what will be thought of Mr. Daubeny's credit as an accuser? And if the Bishop of Lincoln cannot deny that he has manifestly misrepresented the sense of a paper, which Mr. Meade in candour and confidence trusted to him on his own application, what will be thought of his Lordship's impartiality as a judge in this case?

When assertions are made respecting Mr. Sawbridge,* which are proved not to be founded in fact, the Bishop says nothing! When Mr. Daubeny ventures to quote Admiral Stanhope to a fact, which the Admiral declares not to be founded in truth, his Lordship thinks it unnecessary to enquire. When it is asserted that "Bishop Moss pronounced Mrs. Meade perjured," and Mr. Meade proves the assertion false; the Bishop of Lincoln says only, that Bishop Moss thought well of Mr. Daubeny and his cause. When stories are recited by the Bishop of Lincoln himself, and circulated by his immediate family, tending to injure the character of Mrs. Meade; and these stories are proved to be utterly without foundation; his Lordship again only says, that they are nothing to other points. And when his own palpable misrepresentations are pointed out to

* See instances in Mr. Meade's first pamphlet, page 106, and in the Bishop's paper in the Appendix.

him, so far is he from apologising, that he shifts his ground, and states his opinion, that Mr. Meade must be wrong either way. Yet his Lordship continues saying, "if you prove I am mistaken in any point, I will give it up."†

Of this however others will judge, when they are informed that Mr. Meade referred his Lordship to the Rev. Mr. Sawbridge, who can contradict the assertions respecting him;—to Admiral Stanhope, who will deny what is said of him;—to the Rev. Dr. Moss's letter for his father, to the message brought by Archdeacon Barker to Dr. Blayney from Dr. Moss, and to Bishop Moss's own letter, to disprove the fact asserted of his Lordship;—to a coachmaker, who can contradict another;—to Mr. Goddard's letters, which are sufficient to disprove another;—and to the paper which his Lordship misrepresented, to decide against himself in that instance.

The letters of approbation which the Bishop of Lincoln quotes as written to himself, or to Mr. Daubeny, are answers to *their own* letters, which conveyed *their own accounts*; and if they had added to their account, "that Mrs. Meade had committed murder," it would only have increased the horror intended to be excited. But in the name

† Is not this like the man in the play, who says, "Let me hear your reasons—I love to hear reasons when my mind is made up, for then they can do no harm."

of common-sense and justice, what have these letters to do with the argument?

His Lordship says, "that one of the parties must be guilty!" Lord Kenyon and a special Jury thought so too! And as to reparation, which his Lordship says "is due to the injured party," the law, considering Mr. Meade as the injured party, satisfied him by protecting his character, which was all the reparation he desired.

Mr. Daubeny told Mrs. Meade in one of his letters, (it is presumed, to make the family believe that the penalty he had paid remained in her hands, and that the various expences of the suit did not swallow it up) he told her, "that *he hoped the curse of ill-gotten riches* would not sooner or later rest on her and her children." But he knows now at least, that she is effectually secured from the danger of that curse!

The Bishop, having pretty plainly ascribed to Mrs. Meade a variety of wickedness, charitably finds out a motive for her, viz. "that she sought to give a criminal colour to *innocent* words, in order publicly to convict an old friend and favourite in a Court of Law, and to obtain money, from her brother-in-law, the husband of her beloved sister!!!"

Mr. Meade thinks it unnecessary to take farther notice of this *discovery* of the Bishop, than merely to relate it. On the *motives* of people Mr.

Meade does not venture to pronounce; they are often concealed in the recesses of the heart, and are inscrutable by men. But when the conduct of persons is open to great latitude of construction, suspicions will arise; and Mr. Meade has had his. But when he simply relates facts, and that only when necessity calls for it, no one has a right to complain. An erroneous account however being stated of Mrs. Meade's fortune, for an obvious purpose connected with this subject, Mr. Meade begs leave to say, that the united fortunes of Mrs. Barnston, and her two (then) unmarried daughters, Mrs. M. Barnston and the present Mrs. Meade, were not less than 36,000*l.* in possession and reversion. Mrs. M. Barnston being very unlikely to marry, if Mrs. Meade could have been induced to remain single also, to whom would all this money and the savings of it go? There was no brother, nor any sister, but Mrs. Daubeny and Mrs. Sikes! At the same time Mr. Meade desires it to be understood, that he never did pronounce on the motives of people, either principals or agents, whether they were altogether, or in part, pecuniary, or otherwise.

Of the disinterestedness of Miss Barnston in particular, and of all her family, to Mr. Daubeny, instances in abundance may be found; of Mr. Daubeny's no traces are known to Mr. Meade.

By the kindness of the late Mr. Barnston, Mr. Daubeny got a very large fortune with his wife; for though it was left to her in her cradle by a friend of her father, yet a power was given to him of withholding it, if she did not obtain his consent in her choice of a husband. Mr. Daubeny obtained it, and received her fortune: and Mr. Barnston dying eight years afterwards, made him one of his three executors, with Mr. Sikes his other son-in-law, and Mr. Sawbridge the brother of Mrs. Barnston. The latter declined acting; and Mr. Sikes left business chiefly to Mr. Daubeny, who of course proved and undertook to execute the will.

Mr. Barnston appointed his three *unprovided* daughters his residuary legatees, intending thus to give them the largest share of his fortune, and limiting his bequest to Mr. and Mrs. Daubeny. to 1100l. in hand, and 5000l. B. L. A. on the death of Mrs. Barnston. And this he did, because Mrs. Daubeny's fortune was more than double that of her sisters. But scarcely was their father dead, when the daughters shewed their disinterested respect for Mr. Daubeny, by consenting to set aside, in his favour, their father's will. None was so forward to gratify him as Miss Barnston, the present Mrs. Meade, to whom his wishes were always as a law. Without knowing or inquiring into the value of what they

gave, they thus admitted Mr. Daubeny to an equal share with themselves, of a considerable residuum. And a more disinterested testimony of regard and confidence could not be given, because it was not only yielding up a large part of their fortune, but it was unsettling the will of a beloved father, whose conduct appeared so judicious, as well as affectionate, and for whose memory Mr. Daubeny also professed the highest and most unbounded veneration.* Mrs. Barnston herself, whose reluctances were said to have been at first very great, yielded at length to the arrangement that was made, and even consented to receive for her life, in addition to 800l. per annum left to her by Mr. Barnston, 100l. a year more, to be taken from the residuary estate of the three daughters. But she declared that she did not want it; and that it would come to the same thing

* Mr. Meade is aware that Mr. Daubeny had reasons to assign for this alteration of Mr. Barnston's will; and it is not intended here to examine those reasons. But whether they were just or not, Mr. Meade's argument is not affected. Whether Mr. Daubeny had, in legal strictness, a claim to somewhat more than Mr. Barnston's will gave to him; or whether that will had given him to the full amount of what he could by any plea lay claim to; or whether the alteration of the will gave him two or three times as much as he could by any pretence claim; the disinterestedness of the Barnston family was the same. They neither saw nor desired any accounts; they knew not, nor enquired into, what they gave; but with confidence and generosity they admitted Mr. Daubeny into an equal share with themselves of a considerable property of *unknown value*!

in the end, for that her daughters would have it after her death.

If Mrs. Meade expected a child's share of what her mother had to leave, she and others thought she had good reasons for such expectations. But on her mother's death, she learned that a new will had been made in her 85th year, by which about 1600l. or 1700l. was left to Mrs. M. Barnston; to Mrs. Sikes, the same; to Mr. and Mrs. Daubeny about 3000l.; and to Mrs. Meade, nothing. A trifle, under 100l. for each, was left *in trust* for Mrs. Meade's four children, but rather, as it should seem, to convey insult than benefit; neither principal nor interest being payable for sixteen years; the children having only a contingent interest in this trifle, with a reversion to Mrs. M. Barnston, Mrs. Sikes, and Mrs. Daubeny; and during the interval of sixteen years Mr. Daubeny and another gentleman being made the managers and trustees for them!*

The pretence for all this was to perform an act of *retributive justice* to Mr. Daubeny, for costs and damages under an unfavourable verdict. Mrs. Barnston at eighty-four conceiving herself competent to judge of retributive justice! calculating and arranging like a solicitor! when about the same time Mrs. Meade was given to understand

* Vide in Doctors'-Commons the will of Mrs. Mary Barnston, of March, 1804.

that her mother was too old even to receive letters from her daughter;* and Mr. Daubeny was declared to be the person to whom she must in future address whatever she might have to say to her mother!

It was surely not necessary, even to *such* pecuniary justice, that a feeble poor old lady, at that age, should leave a shocking record against her own child, unexampled in Doctors'-Commons, by voluminous and unnatural charges in her will. Thus, after having deprived her daughter and her children of their share of her fortune, endeavouring also to strip them for ever of their reputation and honour, even after she had given to them *her blessing*, or, as it is called, *her forgiveness*.

This last wound has been indeed the severest which could be given to Mrs. Meade; and for what purpose it was inflicted, but to gratify spleen or vengeance,† is inconceivable. Even to defend herself is a painful necessity; her surprise being equal to her grief at this unexpected blow from a mother, who, when left to herself, had ever been the most indulgent as well as the most affectionate to her! And as to the pecuniary disposition in Mrs. Barnston's will, if the object

* See letter from Mrs. M. Barnston to Mrs. Meade, already quoted. *See p. 247 notes*

† This is the will, at the reading of which Mr. Daubeny invited Mrs. Meade to be present at his house!

were really what it professes, “ to make compensation to Mr. Daubeny,” why did not the remainder of Mrs. Meade’s share, after satisfying him, go to Mrs. Meade herself? But Mrs. Meade, still regardless of pecuniary injuries, wrote again to her sisters, requesting general reconciliation and mutual oblivion; but her offers were again rejected. The world will judge whether she shewed that interested disposition, which the Bishop ascribes to her, and will perhaps be not so much at a loss as his Lordship is to find out the motives of the parties.

Mrs. Meade acknowledges that she did not imagine that any delusion in her mother could have induced her to carry resentments beyond the grave, either by cruel insinuations in her will against herself, or by depriving her and her children of the portion of her fortune, to which Mrs. Meade knew that truth, and justice, and nature gave her fair claims. Circumstances also tended to confirm this persuasion; for her mother had told her sister Mrs. Ravenhill, about eight or ten years before, that she had made her will at that time, and hoped that she had not forgotten one of her relations, and that her will at least would satisfy all parties.

It was about the same time also, that Mr. John Daubeny, being on a visit in Bath, at his brother’s, (Rev. C. Daubeny) and having called on Mrs.

Lyte, mentioned, "that although Mrs. Barnston "could not, in justice to his brother, *see* her "daughter Meade, yet that she entirely *forgave* "her; as would appear in her will, which was "made, and which gave to Mrs. Meade an equal "share of her fortune with her sisters."*

It was also much about the same time that Mrs. Meade, hearing in Oxford that her mother was very ill, hastened to Bath, and wrote to her sister, entreating permission to throw herself at her mother's feet, if but for one minute of her life, which was refused; her sister telling her, "that her mother was recovered; and that she "perfectly *forgave* her, hoping in her illness that "it would not be imputed to her that she did "not see her." On every occasion Mrs. Barnston was said to have *forgiven* her daughter, but could not see her. And no parent could shew more tenderness on the only occasion, when (Mr. Daubeny being at a distance) she saw Mrs. Meade's children. Nor could any one express more kindly interest than she did, when Mrs. T. Forster called on her, and said she was just come from spending a few days with Mrs. Meade, the good

* Mrs. Lyte naturally mentioned with pleasure this circumstance to Mrs. Meade at the time; she not only thought that it would gratify her, but that probably Mr. J. Daubeny wished her to do so, as she was not that his brother either had not influence, or did not exert it against her.

old lady earnestly enquiring about her and her children, and even kindly about Mr. Meade's health. It was therefore with much surprise that Mrs. Meade learned, after her mother's death, that a new will had been signed by her, in her 84th or 85th year, of five folio pages; full of calculations and nice details, four-fifths of the will being on the subject of that daughter to whom nothing was left; even her share of a little estate in Berkshire being devised away from her, altho' her mother had no dominion over it; and what was most unkind of all, charges equally unjust and unnecessary being introduced into this will, as records which could never be revoked, however the facts may be afterwards explained or disproved.

No notice was taken in this will of Mrs. Barnston's only brother, nor of her only sister, nor of any of her nephews or nieces, notwithstanding what she had assured her sister eight or ten years before. What the cause of this was, is now a subject of mere conjecture only. They were certainly all known to be much attached to Mrs. Meade, and so they had always been.

The Bishop is pleased to say, "that *some* who have read Mr. Meade's papers, have thought "favourably of him;" But his Lordship should rather in candour have pointed out one individual

instance of any man who had heard both sides, and was not favourable to Mr. Meade.

His Lordship, applying Mr. Meade's own expressions against him, says, "that he keeps out of fight the principal features, and dwells on others that are less so." The Bishop has produced no authority for this assertion, and Mr. Meade again ventures to defy him to prove it in any instance. The fact applies to Mr. Meade's opponents, not to him. Dr. Blayney, in his printed account of his negotiation for an amicable arbitration, terms Mr. Daubeny's conduct "*a dextrous piece of legerdemain.*" The Bishop himself keeps out of fight that the trial was for slander,*

* Mr. Meade's motive for going into a court of law was purely to protect his character from slander; and his friends, his solicitor, and his counsel knew it. But these last, instantly perceiving the object and effect of the slander, thought it right to state them in the Declaration. Mr. Meade obtained all that engaged his solicitude, when he had protected his character by a verdict of his country.

The excuses set up for his opponent are of little concern to him. Of what value is the pretence that the marriage was not prevented or delayed by the slander? If the intention be manifest, is calumny the less reprehensible, because the full intent of it might not have been effected? But in this case it is presumed that the effect of having prevented a marriage was not less manifest than the intention.

The argument that slander did not affect Mrs. Meade's conduct, because she had previously resolved not to act against her mother's wishes, is weak as it is unfounded. Mrs. Meade did once so resolve, and sincerely expressed such resolution with as much piety and duty as ever a daughter felt. But is there not a condition implied in every such resolution? Can no circumstance arise, which will justify a change of sentiment? Are not common justice and affection due to a daughter? Mrs. Meade always wrote and spoke

and the verdict for slander, as well as for the loss of marriage; that is, for having prevented a marriage until the trial. He dwells on promises made to Mr. Daubeny, but keeps out of sight the manner in which they were obtained. He rests on the irritation in Mrs. Barnston's mind; but suppresses the means by which it was excited. He speaks of the family disliking Mr. Meade; but he conceals their attachment to him previous to their being practised upon; and in describing

in the momentary fullness of a heart impressed with the warmest sense of filial duty for a parent, whom she believed that no delusion or influence could seduce into a forgetfulness of maternal affection: for as she wrote to her mother in October, 1790, (see page 64) "she trusted she should always be able to subscribe herself the most dutiful, as no earthly considerations could ever make her other-wise than her most affectionate, daughter." But suppose a mother to have declared her own sentiments clearly to her daughter, and afterwards to fall under subjection to the caprice or tyranny of another! Suppose this aged mother to be under the influence of an *interested* person, and unjustly and irrationally to revoke a consent she had once given to her daughter's plans of happiness, and even to set herself with severity against them; listening only to an enemy, rejecting all reason and consideration for her child, and at length even shutting her doors against her, for performing an unavoidable act of justice and duty: Will any one say that a daughter is to consider such conduct as expressive of her mother's real wishes and sentiments? or will it be insisted on, that a woman past thirty, whom her father had thought fit to render independent, ought not, under such circumstances, to think for her own happiness? Mrs. Meade's temperate and uninfluenced friends and relations not only justified, but guided her conduct; the Rev. Dr. Blayney conveyed to her his opinion as a divine, as a father, and as a moralist, in an admirable paper written expressly on this occasion, after taking a view of the whole circumstances.

the family, he always represents a part for the whole !

But it is endless to point out the evasions and the quibbles by which every argument is supported, and which induced a worthy and sensible man to say, that since he had read the Bishop's papers he had a worse opinion than ever of the cause his Lordship supported.

The Bishop mentions Mrs. Meade's aunt, as if he would have her thought to be an evidence against her niece; and he quotes the good old lady, only as having signed a paper which was brought to her for the purpose, and which paper is in fact a *pompous nothing*; although his Lordship gives himself the pains to recite it in full. This paper only proves that she did not hear from Mr. Daubeney particular facts, which no one ever said she did hear from him; no mention having been made of the principal or agent who communicated to her the information she received.

That Mrs. Ravenhill and her family heard calumny from some one, is certain ; otherwise she would not have said to Miss Barnston, " that " Mr. Meade was either a very bad or a very " injured man." Nor would her son, the Rev. Mr. Ravenhill, " have so earnestly cautioned Miss " Barnston against him *on the will business*." Nor would Miss Barnston herself have written to her aunt, " that she knew that hers and her mother's

“mind were poisoned on the subject.” But if the Bishop had applied to this excellent old lady for the character of her niece in her whole family, he might have learned in what degree of esteem and affection Miss Barnston was ever held by her aunt ; and also by her mother, until the latter was poisoned by false stories, which no one could venture to correct.* He might have learned what is the opinion of Mrs. Ravenhill, and of her whole family, as well as of every one else, on the present opening of this breach again ; and he might also learn some circumstances respecting the always weak but latterly much-impaired memory of Mrs. Barnston, which might be useful to his Lordship in teaching him caution, when speaking of things which he could not know.

His Lordship cannot possibly conceive any motives to account for Mr. Daubeny’s conduct ; but he does not consider that it would be much more unaccountable, if two persons of common sense should have plotted, and contrived, and practised every folly and every wickedness, for the sake of an object which it was in their power to attain any day of their lives, by means honourable, easy, and simple. His Lordship, however, gives one example of Mr. Daubeny’s disinterestedness and liberality, of which he shall not be deprived. The Bishop with gravity records, that

* See Mr. Sikes’s letter already quoted.

immediately after Miss Barnston's return from the continent, Mr. Daubeny actually went, for one whole week, to his own parish, and to his own house, leaving Miss Barnston in her mother's house, and in her own home; to give her an opportunity of speaking to her mother without his being present!!! And his Lordship cites evidence to the fact!!! But Mr. Meade must venture to relate two instances, in which he does not appear to have been so very liberal in leaving Miss Barnston to her own judgment and discretion.

Miss Barnston's relations, seeing her desirous of exerting herself against Mr. Daubeny's power, and proposing to support her, a plan was arranged for her declaring it to her mother. But in order to countenance this, it was thought necessary in delicacy that an opening should be made by a respectful letter from Mr. Meade to Miss Barnston, at her mother's house; while she proposed to be in Bath about the time of the letter's arrival, to meet it. But the letter having arrived first, Mr. Daubeny took it, and, it is presumed, read and kept it; for he never gave it to Miss Barnston, but answered it himself with the utmost degree of bitterness and insult, still making use of Mrs. Barnston's name.

The other instance is, that previously to Mr. Meade's leaving England in July 1790, after Miss Barnston had first yielded to Mr. Daubeny's in-

fluence over her mother, she desired that Mr. Meade would send her a parcel of journals and other papers; but in the prejudiced state of her family, she begged that they should not see them delivered, as it would only add to her uneasiness and vexations: and a respectable family in Bath, who pitied more than blamed her subjection and timidity, undertook to send the packet. But the bearer mistaking Mrs. Daubeny for her sister Miss Barnston gave it to her, who, having received it as Miss Barnston, did not convey it to her sister, to whom it was addressed, nor even to her mother; but singular as it will appear, it was to her husband that she carried her sister's packet. Mr. Daubeny in a few days restored the packet; but kept the letter, which was tied on the outside, until some time after, when Miss Barnston discovered and demanded it.

If after all this any one can doubt Mr. Daubeny's influence in the Barnston family, it may be said to that person, in the words of the late amiable and learned Bishop Horne, "that no evidence
" in the world will make a man believe what he
" does not choose to believe."^{*}

^{*} If the Bishop should say that he views the affair now in a different arrangement, and in a new light, Mr. Meade is ready to accept his acknowledgments. But he must remind his Lordship that he had seen almost all that is given in this pamphlet, and that he might have seen every document and proof in Mr. Meade's possession, if he had enquired. Mr. Meade admits that he did not

Mr. Meade is at a loss to conceive what the Bishop meant by professions of impartiality, which he understands that he made when he was applying for Mr. Meade's papers, or by his assurances that he should listen to no prejudiced parties or partizans. With *one* of the parties he had indeed no intercourse, having never seen Mr. or Mrs. Meade. But it was not so with the other party. The Bishop and Mr. Daubeny had constant and daily intercourse; every paper was handed in, which might work its effect; anecdotes insisted on, which might poison a stranger's mind, or destroy character by the deadly blasts of insinuation; every opportunity was open for commenting and glossing; large packets were added, when all seemed finished; and sent in so critically, that, as his Lordship says, he could hardly read them while in Bath, and was sorry he could not have some conversation with Dr. Randolph on the subject. His Lordship's mind seems to have been thus prepared for sentence, rather than for trial! It seems strange that reconciliation did not occur to his mind, as it did *to every other person*: or that he should enter on the affair, without the knowledge of one of the parties: or that he should be *uneasy* about a friend's opinion in London, respecting a matter and persons whom he says he did not know: or that a

take the trouble to arrange his papers until his Lordship rendered it necessary, because he never thought of making them public.

family disagreement should otherwise interest him, but as he could make people friends, and obtain for himself the blessing of the peace-maker! But his Lordship seems to explain his own meaning, when he says that the subject was important, because it involved the character of a theologian.

That religion is wounded by the dissensions of brothers and sisters, and by a clergyman having a verdict recorded against him in a public court, is but too plain to all good christians. It must needs be that offences come; but the woe is to them by whom they come. When with grief and mortification Mr. Meade heard that a brother-in law, who had known him for fifteen years, represented him as capable of doing what no man more abhorred; did he not write to offer him every satisfactory explanation, professing that he should think nothing humiliating that might bring brothers back to friendship? Did he trust to prejudice and passion for his conductors? or did he confide himself to three gentlemen* of the highest respectability and worth, whose endeavours for an amicable accommodation he encouraged† by every means in his power; and who testified their opinion of his conduct by accompanying him into court as his friends and supporters? When he

* Dr. Blayney, Archdeacon Coham, and Mr. Goddard.

† See Dr. Blayney's account of the negotiation, printed in Mr. Meade's first pamphlet.

mentioned the shocking insinuations against him which he knew it to be impossible for his brother-in-law seriously to believe, did Mr. Daubeny ever give him the satisfaction of hearing that such charges were not made? Was Mr. Meade not even dared into a court of law, threatened with "the severity of justice," and told, "that arbitration was listened to only because Mr. Meade's friend Dr. Blayney proposed it?"* If then Mr. Meade was called upon to stand in his own defence, is he answerable for an adversary's disgrace? Is this wantonly injuring his character?

Satisfied with having once more discharged a duty which he owed to his wife and to his children, to his friends and to himself, Mr. Meade here takes leave of his readers, assuring them, that as the vindication of those most dear to him was the sole motive of his laying before them this address, so nothing but a similar imperious call shall ever again induce him to take up his pen in their justification.

Whether the Bishop of Lincoln has altered the opinion of the public, or increased their information on the subject of Mr. Daubeny and his cause, it is not for Mr. Meade to say; nor whether it would

* Mr. Daubeny appears to have continued his defiance of Mr. Meade, until he discovered that there was *proof sufficient against him* to ground an action upon.

not have been well, if officious zeal had suffered the cause to remain in that oblivion, where Mr. Meade would gladly have left it.

Having no malice or desire of revenge, even towards those who have endeavoured to injure him in the most tender part, Mr. Meade wishes only to be at peace with his enemies, and in charity with the world.

THOMAS MEADE.

Chatley, Somersetshire.

APPENDIX.

(A.)

*Mrs. MEADE's Correspondence with her Mother;
together with the Account of Archdeacon CONHAM's
Interposition to procure Family Peace.*

MRS. MEADE TO HER MOTHER.

“ IT is a duty I owe to myself, to my children, and to
“ my husband; a duty I owe chiefly “ to you, and to
“ the memory of my father, to hold up my hands against
“ unmerited charges; and to declare, as I shall answer
“ it before GOD, that you are deceived, and that I am
“ wronged. Are you sure, my dear Madam, that you have
“ acted as you would be done by? Have you enquired,
“ or heard from dispassionate men, the merits of this
“ unhappy dispute? Pardon me, Madam, for saying,
“ that, instead of such dispassionate enquiry, you have shut
“ your ears against it; and as you first received, so you
“ continue to take your bias from those who have unhap-
“ pily made their credit to depend on my rejection.
“ Under such circumstances, can you persuade yourself
“ that you have heard and know the truth? If I ac-
“ knowledged, ‘ that you once consented to my marrying
“ Mr. Meade, and desired me to persuade Mr. D.’ do I
“ really for this deserve to be publicly charged with the
“ dreadful crime of perjury? That you forget it, I am
“ persuaded. Why will you not have equal indulgence for
“ me? But is it likely that so kind a mother would have
“ been so singularly severe to a daughter at my age and
“ in my circumstances, as sternly to refuse consent to her

o

“ marrying a man equal to her in every respect, and whose
 “ character was not then stained by those heavy charges
 “ which were afterwards whispered against it? Have I
 “ not also all possible testimony to satisfy both you and me
 “ that I spoke the truth, and that you forget it? Do I
 “ deserve for this to be published by a Brother and a Mi-
 “ nister, under my Mother’s sanction, as a perjured, lost
 “ woman? God help and forgive us all!*

“ I trust I could in every other respect prove myself not
 “ less innocent. I betrayed no secret, for none was ever
 “ entrusted to me as such. The part I acted was not
 “ more called for by humanity to one side, than it was
 “ consistent with the tenderest friendship for the other;
 “ and I am persuaded that you yourself would have acted
 “ with the same charitable mind that I did. I had no
 “ object but the recovery of good-will among relations:
 “ and surely common sense must assure you that I could
 “ have no other view; for did not my own happiness de-
 “ pend on preserving friendships, not in exciting animos-
 “ ities? That recourse was had to law, almost killed me
 “ with sorrow; but it was not my doing. My appearance
 “ and evidence in Court, Heaven knows, were solely
 “ against my will. I was required to speak out on my
 “ oath, and I conscientiously answered the questions put
 “ to me. God is the judge of my truth. What I de-
 “ clared that Mr. D. had told me, I never heard that he
 “ could or would deny; nor could I ever have supposed
 “ that he meant or wished to deny it. And surely there

* This is the passage from which the Bishop of Lincoln infers
 an acknowledgment of criminality in Mrs. Meade: his Lordship
 having stopped critically at that part of the sentence which might
 admit of a construction that is contradicted by the whole letter.

“ there is not one of our family and connections that
 “ must not have acknowledged to have heard the same in
 “ substance, if the lawyers (contrary to Mr. Meade’s
 “ wishes and mine) had not called on me only to be the
 “ witness of it. If on one side there was pecuniary loss,
 “ there was no gain on the other; an immense bill of
 “ costs having required all that was received to discharge
 “ it. Money, I can truly say, was no object of Mr.
 “ Meade; for, as he instructed his Counsel to say, ‘ he
 “ would rather his opponents would candidly acknow-
 “ ledge their errors, than that he should obtain a verdict
 “ for ten thousand pounds!’

“ Let me then, again, before it is too late, implore you,
 “ for GOD’s sake, and by the memory of my beloved
 “ Father; let me, in the name of three grandchildren,
 “ implore reconciliation with you, as far as you can grant
 “ it. If cruel circumstances deny me your society, let me
 “ receive under your own hand an assurance of your
 “ blessing, your forgiveness, and love. If any one should
 “ be inflexible in this unmerited prejudice against me,
 “ none can surely object to your seeking the blessed re-
 “ ward of the merciful, by dying in peace and love with
 “ your suppliant child,

C. M.”

The reader has already been informed of the circum-
 stances under which Mrs. Meade married. Her mother’s
 mind had been poisoned and irritated, and her house shut
 against her daughter, whose best friends advised her to
 marry Mr. Meade; and he received her as his wife, when
 she was no longer a member of Mrs. Barnston’s family.
 Every part of Mrs. Meade’s conduct was guided by the
 advice and under the direction of her ever-valued friend
 Mr. Goddard; who was of opinion, that to write to ask

her mother's consent, would be nothing less than to insult her, because Mrs. Meade must know that her mother *could not* give it. But he advised her to do, what she never ceased to practise, that is, to intreat with humility and duty her mother's forgiveness for the unintended offence she had given her, by not asking her consent, or communicating her intentions to her when she did marry; pleading the necessity to which she was reduced, but at the same time endeavouring to avoid any expression that might give Mr. D. a pretence for opposing her.

To the above letter Mrs. Barnston gave no answer; but Mrs. M. Barnston wrote to Mrs. Meade a long letter in her mother's name, but certainly not in her mother's language; whole sentences being word for word the same as are found in a letter from Mr. D. to Mrs. Meade. In this letter the old arguments and charges were repeated, as if they had never been explained or answered; and a command was given (according to the usual practice) that no answer should be returned to the letter; the last words of it being as follows: "To prevent a repetition of useless writing on your part, my mother has charged me to open every letter directed to her, and to shew her no letter that comes from yourself. Whilst I write in order to secure my mother's future tranquillity, I must, in order to secure my own, beg you will not write to me on this subject. MARY BARNSTON."

Long and unkind as the above letter was, yet Mrs. Meade received in a day or two another from Mr. D. himself, still more offensive and insulting; with great professions of pity and tenderness; hoping that Heaven would see her conduct in not so bad a light; *trusting that the curse of ill-gotten riches would not be entailed on her-*

children; leaving her to GOD and her own conscience, &c. &c. Mrs. Meade took no notice of this letter; but she wrote to her mother as follows.

MRS. MEADE TO MRS. BARNSTON.

“ WHEN I solicited reconciliation with you, I did
“ hope that no one’s interference might be necessary.
“ But I chiefly hoped that you would not have thought it
“ necessary to lay my letters before Mr. D.; for I foresaw
“ the fatal consequences of it. And a letter I have
“ just received from him proves but too well that my
“ fears were not groundless; and that there is to be no
“ reconciliation, until we meet where all mistakes will be
“ cleared up, and peace and love be restored.

“ What had Mr. D. to do, when I only sought to throw
“ myself at the feet of my mother? He has taken upon
“ him to answer my letter to you with such a spirit, that
“ I see all my prospects with you in this life are at an end.
“ In the objections against me, I could soon satisfy an
“ unprejudiced mind; but where every thing is mistated
“ or perverted on my subject, and where a rooted preju-
“ dice has taken place, it is vain to try to convince.
“ I retire, therefore, but not in obstinacy or resentment;
“ for if ever it shall please GOD to turn your heart to me,
“ I will fly to you, wherever I may be, if it be only for
“ one moment of your life. All I want on earth is your
“ love and blessing; I have, thank Heaven, every thing
“ else. Providence has blessed me with three infants; I
“ enjoy the confidence and affection of an honest man;
“ and I am favoured with the comforts of a reasonable
“ competency. I will make no other remark on the ex-
“ pressions in my sister’s letter about Mr. M. when she

“ talks of SCURRILITY and FALSEHOOD, than that I
 “ grieve at her blindness and prejudice, and am thankful
 “ that she does not know him. C. MEADE.”

About a year after, Mrs. Meade having accompanied Mr. M. in ill health to Bath, was advised, before she left it, to offer to her mother an opportunity of seeing her children; and her servants having taken them to the parade near her house, left a note for Mrs. Barnston, to say they were at play there, and if she wished to see them, they should wait on her. A servant of Mrs. Barnston's immediately came out, and took up one of the children, Mrs. M. Barnston took up another, and a third was able to walk up stairs; when their grandmother received them with the utmost tenderness, and shewed all that sensibility which was natural on seeing for the first time three children so nearly connected with her.

The pleasure and the congratulations of Mrs. Meade's friends on this occasion were soon damped; for in three days a letter came from Mrs. M. Barnston to Mrs. Meade, as follows:

“ MY mother begs I will remind you of her resolution
 “ of not writing to you again. But she thinks it necessary
 “ to say these few words, to prevent your children being
 “ refused admittance at her house. She saw them, be-
 “ cause you desired it,* as they could have nothing to do
 “ with the conduct of their parents. But as seeing your
 “ children can only serve to bring to mind the reasons

* This is not a candid representation. Mrs. Barnston saw her grand-children, not because it was Mrs. Meade's, but *her own* desire. It was left to her, whether she would wish to see them or not. But this passage, at all events, contradicts fully an assertion of Mr. D.'s, that “ the children were forced into their grandmother's house.”

“ she cannot see their mother, she begs that their visit may
 “ never be repeated, as it must be the cause of more pain
 “ than pleasure.”

This letter and conduct appeared very unaccountable ; but the mystery was soon cleared up. Mr. D. was absent from Bath when Mrs. Barnston saw her grand-children ; and immediately *after his return* the letter was written forbidding them for ever from going to her house again. What *other violent steps* he took in Mrs. Meade’s family, are best known to himself, and are *not altogether unknown to her*. She therefore wrote a letter to her mother, from which the following are a few extracts.

“ I have received my sister’s letter, desiring that I
 “ should never again send my children to your house. I
 “ will take care they shall never intrude upon you. The
 “ unkind expressions which my sister’s letters always con-
 “ tain, affect me with sorrow, but not with resentment ;
 “ nor shall they ever draw from me a word of anger. I
 “ can easily forgive, because I have injured no one, and
 “ deserve not her reproaches ; and I pray that the injustice
 “ done to me may never be charged to any one.”

— — “ Permit me, dear Madam, to implore you, for
 “ my sake and for your own, to consider. Every friend
 “ to you and to Christianity would rejoice that you would
 “ restore to your heart a daughter that was lost to you.
 “ But if I must be cleared before you forgive me, let me
 “ know my faults, and if I do not satisfy dispassionate
 “ minds, I give up all hopes of happiness. If fresh ob-
 “ jections rise one after another, and year after year, and
 “ no one on my part is at hand to point out the errors, it
 “ is endless to trouble you with explanations ; it is in-
 “ effectual for myself, and defeats the very end of charity.”

The year following, Mr. Meade having removed into Somersetshire, Mrs. Meade thought proper to write to her mother again; which she was the more induced to, as she understood that Mr. D. and his family were in London.

EXTRACTS.

MRS. MEADE TO MRS. BARNSTON.

“ Nov. 1797.

“ PERSUADED that you will not quit this world in
 “ your present aversion from me, I venture once more to
 “ acquaint you that I have changed my residence, and am
 “ fixed probably for life; and if it shall please GOD to turn
 “ your heart to me before it is too late, I shall be ready
 “ every minute while I live to throw myself at your feet.”

— “ It is a truth not to be concealed, that every
 “ Christian heart grieves at the wounds given to religion
 “ by such an example of persevering unforgiveness. If
 “ I am to have no mercy, do not refuse me common justice.
 “ Tell me calmly all you blame in me, and if I do
 “ not satisfy you, then give way to severity. I will satisfy
 “ you, if you will judge me yourself, and by yourself.
 “ Your own heart is the best counsellor. But if letters
 “ are handed to an adverse party, full of prejudice and
 “ anger against me, how is the blessed work of peace ever
 “ to be obtained? If Mr. D. is to answer my letters to
 “ you, as he did by my last, what hope is there for us?
 “ His own letter proves that he cannot give an unprejudiced
 “ opinion about me, when he says, that ‘ to admit
 “ truth in me, is to put a knife to his own throat;’ for
 “ where such interest affects any man, it is impossible he
 “ can be a safe adviser; and so I remember he himself
 “ said on another occasion. The charges of perjury I

“ should be ashamed to repel, did not you lend your name
“ to them. Mr. Coham could have satisfied you of what
“ I said of him; and Mr. Hooker, who heard it also from
“ Mr. D. himself. I am charged too with perjury, in
“ describing the state of my own mind. Has the Searcher
“ of hearts given any man the power of knowing mine
“ better than I do myself? And shall that person’s word
“ supersede my oath with my mother? Why suffer an
“ adversary to comment on parts of letters written at pe-
“ culiar times, and under different stages of the business,
“ and to urge them as proofs? Why not enquire the state
“ of my mind of the Miss Sawbridges, Mrs. Gunning,
“ and others, to whom I always frankly opened it at the
“ moment?”

— “ Ask yourself, Madam, did *you* hear no insinua-
“ tions to the same effect as I did, against Mr. M. and did
“ they make no impression on you? Ask the same ques-
“ tion of every connexion of ours, without exception?
“ Mr. D. hopes ‘ the curse of ill-gotten riches will not be
“ entailed on my children.’ GOD, I trust, will bless,
“ not curse them. He will never curse them for crimes
“ unjustly imputed to me. But I neither coveted nor
“ have any riches of Mr. D.’s. I have lost through him
“ the charities and kindness of my family, and he enjoys
“ them. But as to riches, I have more than I deserve,
“ and am thankful. Content renders my competence
“ abundance. Let me have my mother’s blessing and love;
“ it is my due, and is all I seek. Let others take the
“ riches of my family.”

— “ It is with pain I notice the letter Mr. D. wrote
“ to me last year. I hope he wrote it under delusion or
“ passion, and may GOD forgive him, as I do. He

“ hopes I erred through mistake, yet he would have me
 “ punished as wilfully wicked. He prays GOD to forgive
 “ me in heaven, but will countenance no forgiveness on
 “ earth. In the midst of the blackest charges, he says it
 “ is I that slander him. And although he affects that
 “ his object is to give me private and friendly hints, he
 “ forgets that he printed a book against me full of the
 “ blackest catalogue of crimes. I am in truth only con-
 “ scious of defending myself from aspersions, of which
 “ *his letter is a sufficient example.*

— “ But I will close my letter as I began, with im-
 “ ploring reconciliation; the joy of which will more
 “ than compensate for what I have suffered. Do not,
 “ dear Madam, reject the prayers and love of me and my
 “ children. I do not seek to separate you from any one
 “ —only restore to me your affection and confidence;
 “ and bury all in oblivion, by giving me that measure of
 “ your blessing, which I pray GOD to restore ten-fold
 “ to you.”

Archdeacon Coham having read the foregoing letter,
 wrote one also to Mrs. Barnston, urging her to reconcil-
 ment by every argument of religion and justice; and par-
 ticularly assured her, that “ Mr. D.’s charge against Mrs.
 “ Meade’s veracity was unfounded, respecting her having
 “ invented the story of Mr. D. telling Mrs. Meade that
 “ Mr. Coham and Dr. Blayney had declared themselves
 “ unfavourably to Mr. Meade’s cause;” for that she had
 communicated it to him a year before a trial was thought
 of, with trembling and astonishment. “ If I have any
 “ credit with you, (said Archdeacon Coham) this will, I
 “ trust, draw the veil from your mind which prejudice
 “ may have induced; and contribute to the reconciliation

“ which in charity I wish, and which is the sole intention
“ of this letter.”

Mrs. M. Barnston answered Mrs. Meade’s letter for her mother: “ that on no terms, but of an effectual reconciliation taking place in her family, should she see her; that done, most gladly she would receive her to her affections; that it relied only on her to effect this.”

To Mr. Coham she also wrote, “ that he could not but suppose that it was her ardent wish to have reconciliation take place; that it would be a very great happiness to her, and to all her family; without her daughter would first restore that harmony, it would be to no purpose her seeing her *while she keeps up any enmity to her family* ;* the interview will only agitate her, and no good done by it. This is only in her power to effect; which, when done, she may be assured of my receiving her with affection. If you, sir, can by any means be instrumental to bring about a reconciliation, you will very much oblige, &c.

“ M. BARNSTON.”

Mr. Coham, full of sanguine hopes, determined to go to Bath, unfavourable as the season was for a very old and infirm man; and convinced that Mrs. Meade had *no enmities*, but on the contrary good-will towards all her relations, he begged her to accompany him in his carriage; persuading himself, that when he had seen Mrs. Barnston, and laid plain facts before her, all difficulties must be soon removed, and that she would immediately see her daughter. Having gone to Bath, Mr. Coham wrote to Mrs. B. “ that he was come to wait on her in

* The reader will observe how Mrs. Barnston was deluded by a persuasion that Mrs. Meade was the person who kept up enmity.

“ consequence of her letter, and would attend her as soon
“ as she would give him leave, begging she would fix an
“ early hour, as he was obliged to leave Bath that day.”
To which the following answer was returned: “ Mrs. B.’s
“ respectful compliments to Mr. Archdeacon Coham,
“ she cannot possibly see him to-day.”

Mr. Coham was much hurt and surprized at this treatment from a lady with whom he had been in habits of intimacy, and for whose family’s sake he had come to Bath; and uncertain what to do, he again wrote, “ that
“ he was much disconcerted by the laconic answer he
“ had received; begged to know whether she meant to
“ see him at all, or whether he was to be trifled with;
“ but if she would wish to see him to-morrow, he would
“ wait till the next day.”

To this a verbal answer was returned, “ that Mrs.
“ Barnston would give no other answer than what she had
“ already given.”

Astonished and shocked at all this, Mr. Coham and Mrs. Meade prepared to leave Bath; but they had the mystery cleared up before they sat off. Mr. Daubeny had just returned from London, and was sitting with Mrs. Barnston when Mr. Coham’s note was received by her!

These incivilities were followed rapidly by others. A very long letter was written to the venerable Archdeacon Coham, in the name of Mrs. Barnston, not a line of which was written by her; arguing with and insulting him, and even charging him, one of the most benevolent of men, with being instrumental in the law-suit, &c. The stile and language of the letter manifestly discovering the author in every line.

Another very long letter was also sent in Mrs. Barnston's name to Mrs. Meade; in which whole sentences are found, the same as in Mr. D.'s letters, charging her with shocking criminality; and, regardless of proofs and argument, merely repeating words, as Mr. D. had done in his letter to Mrs. Meade the year before; and referring her to that letter, requiring confessions of perjury, &c.

Mrs. Meade, in reply, wrote the letter already quoted in page 109, in which she declared that she would give any considerations for reconciliation with her, but those of conscience and truth; and if her mother continued inflexible in her shocking conditions, "God forbid that she should accept them." [The reader is requested to look back to that letter, page 109.]

Mr. Coham also wrote to her, and observed, "that when she expressed the obligations she should feel, if he could be instrumental in bringing about reconciliation, he thought conversation was the only one which had not been tried, and that he had such overtures to make as he thought could not be refused; that the conditions on which she proposed to receive her daughter were such as ought to induce her to abandon her for ever! that these being inadmissible, he entered his protest against them; that when she told him, 'he heard only one side;' that was her case, not his. And when she said that she read her Bible too much to want instruction about forgiveness, she used a commentator very different from his. As to restitution, of which she talked, that her daughter owed her none; she never injured her. "My mind," said Archdeacon Coham, "hath this advantage over yours, that it hath no interest, no worldly motive to influence it. I shall nei-

“ cause in which the characters of the parties are deeply
“ concerned. Each of these Gentlemen, Sir, has left my
“ house overwhelmed with the weight of that evidence
“ which has been fairly submitted to them; and con-
“ vinced, beyond the possibility of doubt, that the cause
“ which it relates is of the blackest kind. The motive
“ which prevented me from having a new trial, viz. ten-
“ derness for a sister, who must in such a case have been
“ publicly exposed, has also operated with me so far as
“ to make me quietly bear the burthen she has thought
“ proper to lay on my shoulders, rather than get rid of it
“ at so dear an expence to my feelings. The same feel-
“ ings I still possess, and with the story could have been
“ shut up for ever.

“ But, Sir, as it is probable that such will not now be
“ the case, I feel a desire to give you that private con-
“ viction which may, through your means, tend to shut
“ up the mouths of Mr. and Mrs. Meade; and thereby
“ prevent a more publick exposition of their infamous
“ conduct. To induce you, Sir, to this, I propose that
“ not a word should be said upon the subject of our for-
“ mer correspondence, but that the matter should be taken
“ up *de novo*. Inclined as I am to give you full credit
“ for the best intentions, I should be sorry that any ideas
“ that took place in your mind upon a former occasion,
“ should indispose you for meeting me on an amicable
“ footing. The subject I have to bring before you is not
“ a subject for altercation, but for cool and dispassionate
“ investigation. I require nothing to be taken upon trust,
“ nothing to be given up but to conviction. The preju-
“ dice you feel for your friend I wish you to preserve as
“ long as your own character will permit you so to do.

“ The credit of a court, and the circumstance of no
“ attempt having been made to undo it, are moreover
“ considerations which I desire may give way only to the
“ conviction of your own judgment. In short, Sir, the
“ only object in view is to put you in a situation to judge;
“ being satisfied in my own mind, that if you can be per-
“ suaded to come into that situation, you will judge as an
“ honest man. With this idea before me I propose to
“ meet you with one gentleman only accompanying me,
“ who shall be mutually agreeable, at some future day
“ that may be convenient to us both. This letter will,
“ I trust, find you, Sir, in the same disposition of mind
“ in which it leaves me; should it not, (a circumstance
“ which, as a Christian, I shall sincerely lament) I have
“ only to leave upon your thoughts this consideration:
“ How far you will stand acquitted to your own con-
“ science in persisting in the cause of error, when that of
“ truth is thus proposed to be amicably laid before you;
“ thereby suffering yourself to be instrumental in the pro-
“ pagation of a story, which is calculated more or less to
“ prevent a brother clergyman from doing that good in
“ his profession which otherwise might be done.

“ I am, Sir, with respect,

“ Your most obedient servant,

“ CHARLES DAUBENY.”

DR. BLAYNEY'S ANSWER.

“ Rev. Sir,

“ I some time ago received a letter from you, containing an invitation to go over ground again which had been trod before without much comfort or satisfaction. I therefore felt altogether disinclined to the business, and had resolved to pass it over in perfect silence. But having lately had occasion to recognize in you a profession of principles well worthy of a Christian divine, it struck me, that by uniformly acting upon such principles, you might attain the avowed object of your proposal more effectually than by the investigation you call for. I shall therefore, in the true spirit of charity, venture to lay a plan before you, which, with your concurrence, will doubtless succeed. You have it in your power to heal a family breach, which unhappily subsists, and has for some time subsisted, chiefly on your account. How meritorious would it be in you to step forward in order to promote an universal reconciliation! Admitting faults to have taken place on both sides, (and seldom is it otherwise) I need not remind *you*, Sir, how generous, how truly Christian it is, to give up resentment, and to return good for evil. But in your case particularly, I am much mistaken if it will not be found the best policy in respect of carrying the point you have in view, that of clearing your character from aspersions which you think may obstruct the good you might otherwise do in the line of your profession. For by this means you not only stop the mouths of those who, as you think, are interested in misrepresenting you; but the world itself, when it sees you again living on terms of amity with them, will be led to conclude, that what

“ has passed has been more owing to misapprehension than
 “ to any malevolence of intention. Whereas, by still
 “ going on in this stile of proving and defending, you
 “ but perpetuate reproach; since it cannot be supposed
 “ that those whom you accuse, will be wanting in their
 “ endeavour to repel and retort the charge.

“ If these and such like considerations have any weight
 “ with you, I am free to offer myself once more, but I hope
 “ *melioribus auspiciis*, in the character of a mediator, to
 “ bring about peace. It is true, I have not yet consulted
 “ with my friends, who are totally ignorant of my design
 “ of writing to you, although they know I have re-
 “ ceived a letter from you. But I can safely take upon me
 “ to answer, from a thorough knowledge of their temper
 “ and disposition, that they will be ready to meet you
 “ even more than half-way in the road to reconciliation.
 “ If you, then, on your part, can afford me any encou-
 “ ragement, I doubt not but all might soon be well: and I
 “ should heartily rejoice in becoming the blessed instru-
 “ ment of pacification. But if you determine rather to
 “ persevere in the line of enmity, (which as a Minister of
 “ the Gospel of Peace, GOD forbid you should!) my task
 “ is at an end at once; for most assuredly I will not be
 “ persuaded to take a part any more, unless where truth
 “ and justice may require my testimony, in your uncha-
 “ ritable bickerings.

“ I am, Reverend Sir,

“ With due respect,

“ Your most obedient humble servant,

“ June 25th, 1798.

B. BLAYNEY.”

In a few weeks Mr. Daubeny replied to this, as follows:

“ Reverend Sir,

“ I received your favour some time since, and should
“ have returned an earlier answer to it, had I not been
“ from time to time thinking of calling upon you for the
“ purpose of having half an hour’s conversation with you
“ on the subject of it. This, I confess, is what I could
“ much have wished, because I flattered myself that the
“ state of the case might have been better understood by
“ a little conversation than by much writing. The
“ thought that such a visit might be unpleasing to you
“ has at length determined me not to attempt it; al-
“ though, Sir, I should be happy to resume the idea upon
“ the least encouragement on your part. The object of
“ my last letter was to incite to a private amicable inves-
“ tigation of Mr. Meade’s subject. I do not wish to
“ meet any one, a brother Clergyman in particular, upon
“ any other plan. The public affront I have received
“ in Bath from one of Mr. Meade’s friends, in conse-
“ quence of his story, has rendered some vindication of
“ my character necessary; and I am confident you would
“ think me unworthy of the station I hold in the Church,
“ did I rest satisfied till that object had in some way been
“ accomplished. I am sorry, Sir, that an idea should
“ prevail in your mind respecting my perseverance ‘ in
“ the line of enmity.’ I can assure you, I feel no enmity
“ on the occasion; and though deeply injured, I perfectly
“ agree with you upon the subject of giving up resent-
“ ment, and returning good for evil. I hope I shall
“ never think otherwise. I am moreover disposed to give

“ full credit to Mr. Meade’s friends, as honest and honour-
“ able men; asking them only to concede to me one point,
“ viz. that they are fallible men. Upon this ground
“ alone I wish to proceed upon the present subject.

“ These considerations will, I trust, Sir, have their
“ weight with you. All I ask is, what I think you would
“ expect should be granted to you under similar circum-
“ stances. Let this golden rule of Christianity be the
“ standard for your conduct on this occasion, and I am
“ certain it will in the end be productive of mutual satis-
“ faction. You offer yourself, Sir, in the character of a
“ Mediator. I should be happy to meet you on that ground,
“ when the subject is in a state for it; but upon the prin-
“ ciple that we must be just before we are charitable,
“ when a character has been publicly injured, justifi-
“ cation of that character ought to precede every other
“ consideration. Where nothing is required for this pur-
“ pose but a private investigation of the conduct of the
“ respective parties, I see not how it can be effected upon
“ easier terms. If Mr. Meade’s cause was a good one in
“ the court, it must be a good one out of it. It must
“ doubtless, therefore, have occurred to you, that the event
“ of the investigation proposed must be either the confirm-
“ ation of my disgrace, or the more settled conviction of
“ your judgment. The disadvantage (if any) in this case
“ must be to me—the advantage to yourself. You will
“ not, I flatter myself, on this or any occasion, find me
“ acting unworthy the character of a Minister of the
“ Gospel of Peace. Indeed, I will venture to say, that
“ provided you will so far do me the justice as to make
“ yourself fully acquainted with all the circumstances of
“ the case in question, there is nothing which you will

“ feel yourself called upon by charity to do, which I shall
 “ be backward in doing; because I am confident you
 “ will do every thing a man of character and a clergyman
 “ ought to do upon the occasion.

“ I am, Sir, with all due respect,

“ Your most obedient humble servant,

“ CHARLES DAUBENY.”

Doctor Blayney returned the following answer.

“ Reverend Sir,

“ WITH a view to pacification, I have twice
 “ made you an offer of my services, which twice have
 “ been at least virtually rejected. I must therefore take
 “ leave to adhere to my declared resolution of declining
 “ any further interference. Nor can I see ground for
 “ entering afresh, after so long a time, into a matter
 “ which has been already so completely investigated, first
 “ in a court of justice, and afterwards in a deliberate appeal
 “ of both parties to the public; in consequence of which
 “ I have fully and finally made up my mind, and have
 “ not a doubt left.

“ I am, with due respect,

“ Reverend Sir,

“ Your most obedient humble servant,

“ B. BLAYNEY.”

Here it may be permitted to enquire, what right had Mr. Daubeny to expect that Mr. Meade's closest friend should admit or accede to a new enquiry into his conduct, as if his cause were doubtful?

Dr. Blayney had carried on a tiresome and vexatious correspondence with Mr. Daubeny during ten months, for the express purpose of obtaining an amicable investigation of the difference between Mr. Meade and him. He did it to prevent, if possible, the necessity of having recourse to a court of justice. And by his statement, which he permitted Mr. Meade to print, it appears that he did not give up his efforts for such private enquiry, until after repeated insults from Mr. Daubeny, and much dissatisfaction with his conduct.* It was not till then that Mr. Meade, with the Doctor's concurrence, and that of every dispassionate person, had his cause brought into the Court of King's-Bench, where it was decided in a public and regular manner.

In the last of Mr. Daubeny's preceding letters, a few passages require a particular notice. There is no foundation for the assertion, that "he received an affront in Bath in consequence of Mr. Meade's story." The person alluded to is Mrs. Falconer.† It seems that she chose to go to St. James's Church on a Sunday when Mr. Daubeny went to preach at the one which she usually attended. At that time Mr. Meade was a very new acquaintance of hers, and had never opened his lips to her on Mr. Daubeny's subject. She judged as others did, from notorious facts.

* See Dr. Blayney's account of the negotiation in Mr. Meade's pamphlet, 1794; a few copies of which Mr. Meade has remaining.

† Mrs. Falconer is since dead; but both Dr. Falconer and his son, the Rev. Mr. Falconer, will bear testimony to the truth of what is here related. And when Mr. Daubeny pleads this affront as rendering a vindication of his character necessary; he forgets his conduct for many years preceding this circumstance.

Mr. Daubeny asserts it as a principle that we must be *just* before we are *charitable*. Where is this principle found? "To be just before we are *generous*," is an old precept in pecuniary matters; but where does the Gospel lay it down as a principle, that a party in a contention shall be judge how far his own idea of justice shall be satisfied, even to admit of charity? Who would venture to pray GOD that *his justice* should precede mercy? And yet we all pray that He would deal by us as we do by others.

Mr. Daubeny's assumption, that "if Mr. Meade's *caute* was good *in* court, it must be so *out* of court," is very true, but his inference is false; the merits remain the same. But the point should be thus stated: "In a *private meeting*, without *Judge, Jury, Witnesses, Oath, or Restraint*; when bold and false assertions *may be made* at will, without means of sifting or examining on oath, has innocence an equal chance with guilt? And should such a mockery of a trial be resorted to, *after a cause had been decided* in a court of justice?" Is not the design obvious?

In like manner Mr. Daubeny speaks of "all the *dis-advantage* being his." This is another deception. What disadvantage? He might *gain*, but could not *lose*. If by any means or chance he could induce people to think of him more favourably, he would be so far a gainer; whereas an *unfavourable* opinion *would* but leave him where he is.

(C.)

Narrative of Mrs. MEADE's Visit to her Mother.

September, 1803.

MRS. Meade had been more than eleven years married without being able to see her mother. She had written frequently to her, but her letters were always answered, with insults and severity, by persons interested or influenced against her; and the mediation of friends was equally fruitless, they being never in any one instance permitted to speak to Mrs. Barnston on the subject. Mrs. Meade therefore determined at length to go to her mother's house. It had been always recommended to her; and although her opponent appeared to be now too strong, and her mother too weak, to admit of very sanguine hopes of success, yet it was still recommended, as the only step she had left untried. But before the account of her visit be related, it is necessary to state that the cause of it at this particular time was that Mr. Stevens, an old and much-esteemed friend of Mr. Daubeny, as well as of Mrs. Meade's family, being in Bath, and being treated by Mr. Daubeny with coldness and disrespect in the street, received from him the next morning the following letter :

REV. CHAS. DAUBENY TO WM. STEVENS, Esq.

“ Sir,

“ IT may not be more agreeable to your feelings than
“ it is to mine, that I should pass by an old and truly-
“ respected friend unnoticed. But you have placed your-
“ self and me in that situation, that so it must be, unless

“ you choose it should be otherwise. After a long and
 “ intimate acquaintance with my character, you have
 “ committed yourself against it, without permitting your-
 “ self to doubt, or to make enquiry. I can make all due
 “ allowance, because I know the art that has been prac-
 “ tised upon you. It is still however in your power to
 “ tread back your steps, if you think proper. If not, I
 “ must leave you, though unwillingly, to travel on to your
 “ grave, accompanied with the reflection of having, in
 “ consequence of wilfully shutting your eyes against the
 “ light, persisted in supporting the cause of falsehood and
 “ infamy against that of truth and honour.

“ Dr. Randolph, I understand, considers that his friend
 “ Mr. Meade can gain no advantage from farther investi-
 “ gation, because he has the opinion of the world already.
 “ Both Dr. Randolph and myself ought to look beyond
 “ this world. To meet Dr. Randolph, however, on worldly
 “ ground, I propose a worldly advantage to his friend, if he
 “ can prove himself entitled to it. I will put down 500l.*
 “ on the table, on this condition, that if Mr. Meade can
 “ prove himself to be the injured man, and that as such
 “ he was entitled to his verdict in the judgment of honour-
 “ able and unprejudiced parties, the 500l. shall be his

* What man, found guilty by a jury, would not put down 500l. or 5000l. according to his fortune or his wounded pride, for the chance of such a trial as Mr. Daubeney proposes; where himself and his party would have to give their testimony on their *words*, without power in the judges to examine, to administer an oath, to enforce the attendance of witnesses, or to restrain the parties in any degree? At such a trial, and before such judges, is it not reasonable to suppose that Mr. Daubeney would do, as he did by others who thought him wrong; that is, turn his back on them, or insult them, and say they knew nothing of the matter?

" own. But if on the contrary I prove his cause to be
 " such as every man of character ought to reprobate, and
 " the evidence produced by him in court to be grossly and
 " wilfully perjured, in such case Mr. Meade shall refund
 " the verdict he has unjustly obtained, for the benefit of the
 " Bath Hospital. Such is my proposal. I challenge Mr.
 " Meade's friends to accept it. An affair of this nature
 " admits of no possible compromise. My character is
 " of that importance, in my own eyes at least, that I can
 " never submit to its being made the scapegoat for that of
 " Mr or Mrs. Meade. Either I am the man Mr. Meade
 " represents me, or I am not. Upon no other consider-
 " ation than that of acting up to the character for which
 " I have been always disposed to give you credit, that of
 " an honest and zealous friend, by proving whether I
 " am so or not, can I ever receive the hand of Mr.
 " Stevens. I am, Sir, with respect, &c.

" Jan. 20, 1803.

CHARLES DAUBENY."

To which Mr. STEVENS replied,

" I HAVE received your letter in explanation of ha-
 " ving passed by an old friend without vouchsafing to
 " taking any notice of him. Your behaviour I thought
 " seemed to require some apology, and I am pleased to
 " find you are of the same opinion. I wish it may lead
 " to good, and by putting an end to the sorrows, be the
 " beginning of joy to a long divided and distracted family.
 " But I must confess I have my doubts. The question
 " with me now is, whether the letter itself does not stand
 " in need of apology, which perhaps you will not be so
 " ready to make. For pray, my dear Sir, how came you

“ to know so decidedly what is not the fact, that I com-
 “ mitted myself against your character, without permit-
 “ ting myself even to doubt or to make inquiry? * You
 “ say likewise you know the art that has been practised on
 “ me. But you are in this no less egregiously mistaken
 “ than in the other assertion. Whatever you may think
 “ you know, take my word for it, no art, as you call it, has
 “ been practised on me. Presuming on my being a poor
 “ weak creature, which GOD knows I am, you hastily
 “ conclude that I am easily imposed on. But I trust, ‘ I
 “ ‘ may, without treading back the steps I have gone, tra-
 “ ‘ vel on to my grave unaccompanied by the reflection
 “ ‘ of having in consequence of wilfully shutting my eyes
 “ ‘ against the light, persisted in supporting, as you choose
 “ ‘ to represent it, the cause of falsehood and infamy
 “ ‘ against that of truth and honour.’ As to your pro-
 “ posal for a re-hearing of the cause, I have only to
 “ say I am fully persuaded that Mr. Meade (to whom
 “ what you have written shall be communicated) will
 “ most cheerfully accede to any proposition you can make,
 “ that is honourable, and likely to produce good-will
 “ and harmony. And as to your character, which is of
 “ importance, as you rightly observe, in your own eyes,

* Those who are unacquainted with Mr. Daubeny’s confidence
 in making assertions, will be surprised to hear, after this charge
 against Mr. Stevens, that so far from “ judging without inquiry,”
 he was amongst the first of Mr. Daubeny’s friends, who at his request
 attended him for many hours in Bath, to read his voluminous charges,
 enforced by his own comments, explanations, and assertions. He
 was present at the trial, and had one of Mr. Daubeny’s books sent
 to him as a particular friend, and all this at a time when he was
 almost a stranger to Mr. Meade, and his former friendships and
 prejudices inclined him strongly to Mr. Daubeny: “ *Amicus Plaque,*
 “ *sed magis amica veritas,*” was, however, more strong with him.

“ and let me add, in the eyes of others also, I have long
 “ thought that nothing would contribute so much to se-
 “ cure you the esteem of all good men, and I should hope
 “ the approbation of your own conscience, as the practice
 “ of a little more Christian charity, and forgiving as you
 “ expect to be forgiven. Whether you will receive my
 “ hand or not, must be left to yourself; but I shall not be
 “ backward to give it; and that you may see the things
 “ which belong to your peace, and to the peace of those
 “ with whom you are more particularly bound to be at
 “ peace, is the sincere prayer of

“ *January 21, 1803.*

W. S.”

Mr. Stevens, after some days, wrote again to Mr. Daubeny as follows:—

“ Rev. Sir,

“ Not hearing from you since my reply to your letter
 “ of January 20, I take it for granted you do not see the
 “ propriety of what I there intimated, that some apology
 “ might be necessary on your part for what had been ad-
 “ vanced in your letter. However that may be, I am
 “ not without hopes that the correspondence which has
 “ been renewed between two old friends on a disagreeable
 “ subject may yet terminate happily. I have acquainted
 “ Mr. Meade, whom I have seen, with what has passed,
 “ and I found him, as I expected, well inclined to listen
 “ to any proposal that is calculated to answer some good
 “ purpose. But, my old friend, (if I may so speak) of
 “ what use can it be to stir up strife again? Is it not much
 “ better to let go contention? Suppose you are the in-
 “ jured person, where is the benefit of proving it, unless
 “ to shew how ready you are to forgive injuries? And

“ may not that be done more easily at once, without taking
“ so much trouble? It is mentioned in the life of Sir
“ Eardly Wilmot, that a gentleman of high rank came to
“ him one day, under the impression of great wrath and
“ indignation at a real injury he had received from a person
“ high in the political world, and which he was medi-
“ tating how to resent in the most effectual manner.
“ After relating the particulars to Sir Eardly, he asked if
“ he did not think it would be manly to resent it. ‘Yes,’
“ said Sir Eardly, ‘certainly it will be manly to resent it;
“ ‘but it would be godlike to forgive it.’ This, the gen-
“ tleman declared, had such an instantaneous effect upon
“ him, that he came away quite a different man, and in
“ a totally different temper from that in which he went.
“ Now if you have received an injury, why cannot you
“ go and do likewise? Suppose Mr. and Mrs. Meade
“ are the injured persons, (and surely there is no harm in
“ the supposition) I am confident they have not a wish to
“ recall to remembrance any of the provocations you may
“ have given, or any of the hard speeches you may have
“ uttered against them. They are no strangers to the
“ doctrine of the forgiveness of injuries; neither are they
“ strangers to the practice of it. You challenge Mr.
“ Meade’s friends to accept your proposal; let me chal-
“ lenge you to accept mine. If you do accept it, I think
“ I may venture to promise you will feel the comfort of
“ it. It is comprised in two words, and I am persuaded
“ will be readily embraced by all the parties concerned.
“ It is no more than *forget* and *forgive*. Consider how
“ good and joyful it is for brethren to dwell together in
“ unity. Let there be a general act of oblivion for what
“ is past. Let all animosities cease on all sides; and let

“ the family be again what it once was, the family of
 “ love. Oh! that I might be made the instrument of
 “ assembling you all together, children and grand-child-
 “ ren, to receive the blessing of the venerable old lady,
 “ your excellent mother-in-law, whose heart would re-
 “ joice at the event; and to see you all embrace one ano-
 “ ther with the kiss of charity. It would be a pleasant
 “ sight, and I should esteem it one of the happiest days
 “ of my life to accomplish so good a work. Bear in mind
 “ what I have said; suffer the word of exhortation from a
 “ *zealous friend*, and let me have the satisfaction of re-
 “ flecting that it may give me some title to the beatitude
 “ in the Gospel, ‘ Blessed are the peace-makers.’ ”

“ Adieu. Your’s, sincerely.

“ Feb. 7, 1803.

WM. STEVENS.”

The Rev. Charles Daubeny’s reply to the above was as follows:

“ TO WILLIAM STEVENS, *esq.*

“ SIR,

“ I am certainly bound to thank you for your earnest
 “ endeavours to mediate between Mr. Meade and myself,
 “ with the charitable object in view of bringing together
 “ a divided family; and should think myself bound to
 “ thank you still more, could you devise any plan for that
 “ purpose, which in the opinion of my friends (*conside-*
 “ *ratis considerandis*) ought by me to be embraced. On
 “ this subject I cannot speak more strongly than I spake
 “ some time since to a friend, who seemed disposed to
 “ appear in the same charitable character with yourself,
 “ by telling him, ‘ that though Mr. Meade had basely

“ ‘ picked my pocket of one 500l. I would willingly give
 “ ‘ another such sum to any one who could find a way to
 “ ‘ bring the family together without the sacrifice of
 “ ‘ character.’* ”

“ But, Sir, your letter seems to me to proceed on one
 “ great fallacy, against which the integrity of your cha-
 “ racter has not been sufficiently on its guard. In con-
 “ tradiction to that unequivocal language contained in my
 “ former letter, which properly belongs to that decided
 “ line of conduct which justice to myself has obliged me
 “ to adopt on this occasion, you say, ‘ if you have re-
 “ ‘ ceived an injury, why cannot you forgive?’ and,
 “ ‘ suppose Mr. and Mrs. Meade are the injured persons,
 “ ‘ &c.’ This would be very proper language to be used in a
 “ case where injury may be supposed to have been mutu-
 “ ally received, and where the interposing parties, after a
 “ general knowledge of particulars, might not be able to
 “ agree from what side concession should come. In such
 “ case mutual forgiveness and general oblivion would point
 “ themselves out as the necessary and proper expedients,
 “ and that party would be deficient in Christian charity
 “ who hesitated to adopt them. But if Mr. Stevens had
 “ set out in this business in consistency with the character
 “ he assumes, he would have known that such expedients
 “ did not apply to the case in hand; and this language
 “ upon it consequently, admitting Christian charity in its

* Mr. Daubeny has two favourite expressions for *himself* and for
others—“ *His character*,” and “ *the world*.” No man is more
 jealous of his character. His fears for it enter into every letter.
 It is an argument to justify all he does, and to condemn all that
 others do. But if any one else feel for his own character, then
 Mr. Daubeny exclaims, that that person regards the *world* only,
 while he himself looks further!

" utmost extent, would have been very different from what
 " it now is. To the tenour, therefore, of Mr. Stevens's
 " letter, I am reluctantly constrained to answer thus:—If
 " I am called on to forgive Mr. Meade, injury on my
 " part must have been received from him. Taking the
 " subject on this ground, and placing the Gospel before
 " us, a proper acknowledgment of the injury constitutes
 " the necessary prelude to forgiveness. Should, after such
 " acknowledgment has been made, forgiveness be with-
 " held, the party injured certainly does not forgive as he
 " hopes to be forgiven.* But Mr. Meade has placed him-
 " self on the ground of the injured party, and has been
 " engaged for ten years at the expence of my character
 " in strengthening himself in the public opinion.† Should
 " that ground therefore be found ground, I, as the inju-
 " ring party, have nothing to forgive. But, Sir, I feel
 " myself standing on the unshaken ground of innocence.
 " Against that innocence Mr. and Mrs. Meade have wil-
 " fully and grossly sinned. It was in my power to have
 " put them both to shame in the same court,‡ from the

* This language is surely immodest at least, in that person
 against whom a court of justice had decided! and it is plainly a per-
 version of Mr. Stevens's argument.

† Mr. Daubeny might suspect that if Mr. Meade has the public
 opinion with him, he must have better support than his own efforts.
 Mr. Daubeny had the advantage of friendships that are usually
 formed at school and college; he has the influence derived from
 great property, and the support of families and relations interested
 in his character; while Mr. Meade's natural interests were in another
 country. If Mr. Daubeny is in this case rejected, and Mr. Meade
 protected by the public opinion, the former may assign a more pro-
 pable cause for it than he has done.

‡ Is it not past comprehension, that Mr. Daubeny, aware of the
 situation in which he stood, should suffer the disgrace of his own

“ ignorance of which they derived their projected advantage. I forgave my injurers so far as to seek no redress against them; because the consequence of the remedy that must have been resorted to for the purpose, made a stronger impression on my feelings, than I trusted the temporary advantage gained against me would be able to make on the minds of those to whom the uniform consistency of my character was known. If I have been deceived in this respect, it has not been for want of character on my part, but for want of judgment in others to appreciate it. Having thus practised, so far as they relate to this subject, the hardest Christian doctrines, of passive obedience and non-resistance in bearing patiently what it has been the will of God to lay on me; you will not judge me indisposed to proceed even further, should Gospel authority be produced, calling on me to do so.

“ To myself however I appear to have acted fully up to the Gospel standard on this occasion.* I have forgiven, so far as forgiveness can be practised on my part. To

character, in order to save that of another, whom at the same time he represented as unworthy of regard? Is this consistent with the experience of mankind; or is it reconcileable with facts? For if actions be taken as evidence of the mind, all Mr. Daubeny's are in direct contradiction to his pretensions. Indeed it must appear an incredible thing, (as observed by Lord Ellenborough on a late trial) that a man should ~~not~~ give up his own reputation out of tenderness for another's, and immediately afterwards endeavour to destroy that person's reputation, and expect that the world would receive his word as the proof!

* Does not Mr. Daubeny misunderstand “the Gospel standard?” Is HE the searcher of hearts? Is confession to be made to him, and forgiveness to be granted by him? Is he to be the judge in his own cause; or can earthly contentions be ever made up, if his doctrine

“ receive Mr. Meade with his verdict in his pocket, and
 “ his story in his mouth, would be to subscribe to the
 “ justice of the one, and to acknowledge the truth of the
 “ other. This I conceive would not be Christian charity,
 “ so much as *Christian folly*. It would be for injured
 “ innocence to chain herself to the car of triumphant
 “ guilt, for the purpose of contributing to the more com-
 “ plete celebration of ill-acquired fame.

“ Adieu, your’s sincerely,

“ Feb. 23, 1803.

CHARLES DAUBENY.”

WILLIAM STEVENS, Esq; to the Rev. CHARLES
 DAUBENY.

“ Reverend Sir,

“ I HAVE received your long letter, to which it is not
 “ my intention to write a long answer. I perceive that
 “ what I said in my two former letters has been to no
 “ purpose; and I have no reason to expect better success
 “ from any thing more I can say. I shall only just observe
 “ that when you assert you were restrained by delicacy to
 “ Mr. and Mrs. Meade from exposing their characters and
 “ vindicating your own at the trial, people will be apt to
 “ exclaim, “ *Credat Judæus Apella!*” for certainly,
 “ besides the improbability of a man sacrificing his own
 “ character out of complaisance to his adversary, the truth
 “ of the assertion is ill-confirmed by your subsequent con-
 “ duct, which has been industriously to speak all manner

be admitted? The reader will judge for himself, whose sentiment
 and expression are most consistent with “ the Gospel standard;”—
 Mr. Stevens’s, of “ Christian charity;” or Mr. Daubeny’s, of
 “ CHRISTIAN FOLLY.”

“ of evil against them, to represent them as grossly guilty
 “ of wilful perjury, and their cause as the cause of infamy
 “ and falsehood. Seeing these things are so, how comes
 “ it to pass that you can accuse them, without condemn-
 “ ing yourself? or by what enchantment can you persuade
 “ yourself you are the only injured person, when you have
 “ done infinitely more to traduce their characters, than I
 “ ever heard of their doing to traduce yours? Were I
 “ disposed to recriminate, I might adopt your language to
 “ me, and complain, ‘ that you wilfully persist in shutting
 “ ‘ your eyes against the light.’ But I forbear. *Liberavi*
 “ *animam meam*. If you can with truth say the same,
 “ I give you joy, and take my leave.

“ Feb. 26, 1803.

Your’s, WM. STEVENS.”

This correspondence being considered by Mrs. Meade’s friends as particularly interesting, it was advised that her mother should see it, and she accordingly sent it to her with a letter to the following purpose.

Mrs. MEADE to Mrs. BARNSTON.

— After earnestly calling her attention to Mr. Stevens’s
 letters, and reminding her how he stood esteemed and
 regarded in the family, she added, “ If you will permit
 “ me to go to you, I will do it with a heart full of grati-
 “ tude and love; I will throw myself at your feet to im-
 “ plore your blessing on myself and on my children; and
 “ when I solemnly declare that I feel no other sentiment
 “ than of good-will towards all my relations, I am ready
 “ to testify it by every act of kindness in my power. To
 “ my sisters I open my heart in love; and to Mr. Daubeny

“ I offer the hand of a sister in friendship, and beg that
“ we forget for ever the past, and forgive as we hope to be
“ forgiven. If his character suffers, I am truly sorry for
“ it. If the remembrance of a law-suit is painful to him,
“ I can with truth declare, that it was entered upon with
“ bitter reluctance, and has been a matter of equal concern
“ ever since. If he thinks, as I hear, that we strive to
“ injure his character, it is a cruel misrepresentation; for
“ if our acquaintances were permitted to meet each other,
“ they would soon make it appear that Mr. Meade and I
“ never speak on the subject, unless some necessary or
“ friendly object is in view. Let us then, my dearest
“ Madam, assemble round you, and with a kiss of love
“ and charity bury the past in everlasting oblivion. Do,
“ for GOD’S sake, use your influence with Mr. Daubeny.
“ I implore you by the memory of my dear father, and
“ of poor Mr. Sikes, who but a fortnight before he died
“ wrote to me, that if he could see us friends again, it
“ would be the happiest day of his life. Consider well the
“ melancholy example of your numerous grand-children
“ being bred up in hereditary aversion, without even
“ knowing each other. One word, it seems, is brought
“ forward as a bar to charity, and a justification of our
“ everlasting separation; the word, *restitution*. On this
“ occasion, when I am soliciting peace and reconciliation,
“ I will avoid every expression of *blame* or of *justification*.
“ But I will quote the sentiments of a divine, who wrote
“ on this very point a hundred years ago: ‘ If any one
“ ‘ offend, the evil is with him, and he has most cause to
“ ‘ be troubled. Little injuries should not move us; if
“ ‘ great, there is more magnanimity in forgiving, for it
“ ‘ is the glory of a man to pass over a transgression. We

“ ‘ must forgive one another, as GOD for CHRIST’S
 “ ‘ sake forgives us. But who is to go to be reconciled,
 “ ‘ the offender or the offended? BOTH, that reconcile-
 “ ‘ ment may be sure. If *restitution* be first required,
 “ ‘ if present satisfaction be demanded, we should rather
 “ ‘ chide our unbelieving hearts that cannot wait till that
 “ ‘ day, when it will be better for the offended, and worse
 “ ‘ for the offender, if it be not done before. — Vengeance
 “ ‘ is mine, I will repay, saith the LORD. Our part is
 “ ‘ both to forgive, and to pray GOD to forgive; to ex-
 “ ‘ hort our enemy meekly, to tell him of his fault, and
 “ ‘ then to win him to friendship by kindness.’

“ I am, &c. CATHERINE MEADE.”

To this letter no answer* being for some days returned,
 Mrs. Meade resolved to go to her mother’s house, and
 strengthened herself to bear the agitation it must give to
 her spirits, by the reflection that it was the only effort she
 was conscious of having omitted. She took the oppor-
 tunity of Mr. Daubeney’s absence from Bath, and hearing
 at her mother’s door that she, with Mrs. Mary Barnston,
 was in her apartment above, Mrs. Meade walked up, and
 tapping at the door, Mrs. M. Barnston opened it, and
 pushed her away instantly, saying, “ you shall not come in.”
 ‘ I insist on seeing my mother.’ “ You shall not, you
 “ will kill her.” ‘ I come to relieve, not to distress her; to
 ‘ let her see a once-loved daughter imploring her blessing.’
 “ You cannot and you must not see her now; she is ill, and
 “ has just taken medicine; you will hurt her greatly; do

* An answer was in the post at the time Mrs. Meade went to
 her mother’s—in the old stile of rejection; it was written by Mrs. M.
 Barnston, but manifestly not her composition.

“ pray come down, and talk with me below ; you *shall* see her another time.” Mrs. Meade then walked down with her sister to the drawing-room ; “ if you will give it up now, you *shall* see her I assure you,” said her sister. “ When ? ” “ I will write to you this night, and fix the time.” “ But will it be in Mr. Daubeny’s presence ? ” “ It must, my mother will not otherwise see you.” “ *Then I will see her now.* ” “ Nay then you shall see her *alone.* ” “ Promise me that, and I will give it up now.” “ I do promise,—at least that I will do all I can for it.” Mrs. Meade returned immediately to her own house in the country ; and the same evening Mrs. M. Barnston sent for Mr. Daubeny from North-Bradley, who came in consequence to Bath, and early the next morning Mrs. M. Barnston wrote to Mrs. Meade.

Mrs. MARY BARNSTON to Mrs. MEADE.

“ Dear Sister,

“ My mother has appointed to-morrow or Saturday, at one o’clock, to receive you, for the purpose of convincing you, that she has perfectly forgiven your past conduct, so far as she as a mother has been concerned in it; which she has told you over and over again many years ago. But if you do not come according to this appointment, my mother insists upon it that she may not be broken in upon in that unfeeling manner in which you would have done it yesterday, had it not been prevented. In case therefore you do not come according to this appointment, my mother says she will not be seen. Please to send an answer by the bearer. I am your’s, in great haste,

“ MARY BARNSTON.”

Mrs. MEADE's Answer.

" Dear Sister,

" I WILL wait on my mother to-morrow at the appointed hour. The stile of your letter shews me but too clearly the state of your mind. However I will do my part. Your affectionate sister,

" Sept. 7, 1803.

CATHERINE MEADE."

On the 8th of September, Mrs. Meade, accompanied by her youngest child whom her grandmother had *never* seen, went into Bath, and on her arrival at her mother's house, was shewn by a servant into a room, where, instead of her mother, she found Mr. Daubeny alone. Little prepared for such a meeting, but assuming a suitable degree of spirit, to the cold intimation of Mr. Daubeny, " You are to see you mother, Madam, alone," she replied, " Am I? I am glad of it." " I will let her know you are here," said he; and retiring for a few minutes, he returned, and again said coldly, " you may walk up stairs now, Madam." But on Mrs. Meade's taking her child by the hand to conduct her to her mother, Mr. Daubeny delivered the child to a servant to be kept down stairs, while he accompanied Mrs. Meade himself to her mother's apartment.

The spirits of Mrs. Meade being much agitated, it was with difficulty she could support herself till she reached the chair of her mother. She fell on her knees before her, and her mother, putting her arms on her neck, pressed her, and cried, " Oh! my child, my dear long-lost child." " Oh!" and fell back in agonies. Mrs. Meade overcame and

sinking, was led out of the room, and found herself in an adjoining apartment with Mr. Daubeny and a strange lady, who she thought might be one of Mr. Daubeny's daughters, not having seen them from their childhood. On her recovery and return to her mother's room, her sister Mrs. Daubeny immediately said to her mother, "Now, Madam, say what you have to say, and let her be gone." "I have nothing to say," she replied feebly; and on Mrs. Meade's looking earnestly at her, and observing: 'how much she was changed in twelve years;' (being deaf, very weak, and almost blind;) "Changed! how changed?" said Mrs. Daubeny, "there is no change."

These circumstances, chilling as they were, and discouraging, did not alter Mrs. Meade's determined mind; but she expressed the most earnest entreaties, 'that all the past should be forgot, and family peace restored.' "It depends on yourself, Madam," said Mr. Daubeny. "As long as Mr. Meade has his verdict in his pocket, and you your story in your mouth, there can be no farther reconciliation;" with other offensive expressions, which induced Mrs. Meade to reply, "that she came there for peace, not to be insulted, nor prepared to argue." Mr. Daubeny held in his hands a pamphlet, and began a long string of charges and complaints, from parts he seemed to have noted; and Mrs. Meade, who had previously determined to confine herself to soliciting reconciliation with her mother, and had no expectation of an opponent, was equally unwilling and unprepared to dispute with him; but hearing him use arguments to prevent reconciliation, which she knew to be unjust, she could not help pointing out their fallacy, and flattered herself (agitated though she was) that she had done it successfully in a great degree;

although the two strange ladies, whom Mrs. Meade imagined might be her nieces, always nodded assent to him, or expressed it by "*certainly, certainly.*" Mr. Daubeny, however, continued shifting his ground; and with volubility of plausible expressions contriving to keep the leading points out of sight, he still urged against Mrs. Meade all his old arguments, which had been often answered. He charged Mr. Meade with calumniating him, and she peremptorily denied it. 'He prejudiced Admiral Stanhope against me,' said Mr. Daubeny. "No: the Admiral declared, on his honour, that he never heard your name from Mr. Meade until you and your friends had put him in full possession of your story; and then he wrote to Mr. Meade." 'But you *must* admit that he poisoned Dr. Falconer against me.' "Mr. Meade had never seen one of Dr. Falconer's family, when they had made up their minds on the subject," said she. 'Who poisoned the Bishop of Durham's mind?' "Not Mr. Meade," said she, "nor any of his friends. His Lordship says, that it was you who insisted on his reading your papers; which when he had done, he thought proper to read those on the other side, and then decided. But," said Mrs. Meade, "it is unfortunate that the zeal of friends is so intemperate: *there* is the mischief. Two ladies, friends of yours, having dined lately with some neighbours of ours in the country, among whom Mr. Meade was spoken of with regard, thought proper to attack his character and mine with such invectives, that their friend with whom they dined, unwilling to hear it, put a stop to the subject altogether." 'Who were the ladies?' said Mr. Daubeny. "I don't know them,"

said Mrs. Meade; "they are my mother's next-door neighbours, the Miss Masons." Some surprize being testified by the whole party, one of the strangers looked up and said, "~~we~~ must take *that* on ourselves, ~~Madam~~." A speech which it may be well imagined astonished Mrs. Meade.

During the whole interview, Mrs. Barnston, and her eldest daughter Mrs. Mary Barnston, took no part. Mrs. Daubeny frequently said that it was time her mother should have her dinner, and that she would be exhausted; and whenever Mrs. Meade attempted to speak to her mother, she stopped her, saying, "that she must not be agitated;" and when Mrs. Meade desired to bring up her child, both Mr. and Mrs. Daubeny prevented it for the same reason. Mr. Daubeny, through the whole scene, appears to have acted with much address, endeavouring to entangle or to seduce Mrs. Meade into some acknowledgment favourable to himself, by holding out to her the affection of all her mother's house as an incitement. At one time he was mild and calm, at another peremptory. But the point he most laboured at was to persuade Mrs. Meade to admit that what she deposed relative to Dr. Blayney and Mr. Coham was false. "Do you want me to proclaim myself," said Mrs. Meade, "a perjured wretch, and to falsify all those who bore testimony to my truth?" "I never said," he replied, "what you swore; and how could you pretend to remember it?" "I could never forget it," said she. "To hear, as you told me, that Mr. Meade's two closest friends gave him up, was the most alarming account I could hear. I made a minute of it, as I had been used to do for many years, in my journal. I wrote instantly to Mr. Coham, although I had never taken that liberty before, to intreat

“ him to satisfy my honour and my happiness, by fully
 “ explaining to me the grounds on which he gave up
 “ the cause of his friend; and Mr. Coham bore testi-
 “ mony to this, in his last illness, in a letter to my mother.
 “ I wrote an account also of the circumstance to Mrs.
 “ Gunning, and my letter still exists. I mentioned it
 “ also in my letters and otherwise to my relations, and
 “ I related it conscientiously when examined on my
 “ oath.” And she added, “ that she never made any
 “ charge against Mr. Daubeny, nor ascribed to him mo-
 “ tives or inventions; having merely spoken to facts,
 “ as she heard them from him, and which on her oath
 “ she was bound to relate—that as he had told her he
 “ heard them from others, so she stated. That she did not
 “ imagine he would have denied it: and she repeated
 “ again and again, that having appeared in court a most
 “ reluctant witness, she confined herself to facts, and im-
 “ puted no motives to him, much less malicious ones.”

Mr. Daubeny then said twice, ‘ Mrs. Meade, mark me ;
 ‘ I acquit you of wilful perjury, or malice of intention.’
 “ Do you,” said she; “ then let us shake hands, (which
 “ he did;) there can be no ground now for enmity, or
 “ family separation.” ‘ Oh! that depends still on you;
 ‘ you must *unsay* what you have said.’ Mrs. Meade
 urged in vain the impossibility of it. Mr. Daubeny per-
 severed; and the two ladies, having unfortunately taken up
 his opinion, always agreed with him.

Mr. Daubeny, during the conversation, had asserted,
 ‘ that the late Bishop Mofs, after a full investigation of the
 ‘ case, with all necessary documents, had declared Mrs.
 ‘ Meade to be a perjured woman.’ But this gave her no

great personal concern, as she knew that his Lordship had fully and sufficiently denied the fact.

But another assertion of Mr. Daubeny's, which was afterwards proved to be equally unfounded, filled her indeed with astonishment; namely, 'that Dr. Blayney had 'changed his sentiments respecting their cause.' And on Mrs. Meade expressing surprise, and saying, "the "account was new to her;" he replied, 'that the Doctor 'had written to him to that effect very shortly before 'his death.'*

The party seeming impatient to close the scene, and nothing farther remaining to be done, Mrs. Meade at length got up, and willing to leave nothing untried that might work upon sisters, she went to Mrs. Mary Barnston, offered her hand, and kissed her. She did the same to her sister Mrs. Daubeny; and then went to her mother, who again threw her arms about her in great agitation, praying God to bless her. Mr. Daubeny and the Miss Masons walked down with her, and during the few minutes she remained in the room, where she had left her child, they

* Dr. Blayney's widow, on hearing the story, wrote the following note to Mr. Meade: "It has been insinuated, as I am told, that "there was some change in the sentiments of Dr. Blayney, a short "time before his death, relative to the unfortunate difference between Mr. Meade and Mr. Daubeny; and that he expressed as "much in a letter which he is said to have written on the occasion; "I own I feel myself hurt at this uncandid attempt to impute opinions to him now, which, if it had pleased God to spare his life, "he would have rejected with indignation. He never varied in his "opinion relative to Mr. Meade's cause and conduct; both had his "warmest support and approbation, as long as he was capable of "thinking and acting. Every sentiment of his heart was open to "me; and it is but justice to his memory to declare, that if it is "pretended that he altered his opinion on the above occasion, such "suggestion I believe to be utterly without foundation."

“ numberless solicitations, I once in twelve years made an
“ effort to see my mother; and I gave it up at that time,
“ as you well know, only because you pledged your word
“ to me that I should see her *alone* in a day or two; at
“ least that you would do all in your power to effect it.
“ You best know how you performed your promise. But
“ admitting it not to have been in your power, was it
“ candid and sisterly, was it doing as you would be done
“ by, not only to disappoint my anxious wishes, but to
“ let me go without previous notice into the strange scene
“ that was prepared for me? In the first room I entered
“ I found only Mr. Daubeny, who still kept up the de-
“ lusion, by telling me ‘ that I was to see my mother.
“ ‘ alone.’ What this meant, I cannot tell. It is true,
“ that when I entered the room where my mother was,
“ I thought of nothing but the errand on which I came.
“ This errand was for peace and reconciliation. Why
“ then was I checked, the moment I attempted to speak to
“ her? Why was she not suffered to receive a grand-
“ child, whom she had never seen? When I looked for
“ tenderness in my sisters, why, alas! did I find in them
“ severe opponents, with impatience and aversion? If
“ witnesses were wanting to this meeting, why were not
“ the relations of our family, our peace-making friends,
“ called in? But for strangers to be introduced at such a
“ time, and on such an occasion, is a circumstance that
“ I believe never before happened. For what purpose
“ they came, they best can tell; persons, who in the com-
“ pany of our neighbours had already taken upon them
“ to inveigh with severity and decision against us, whom
“ they had never seen. These ladies had taken their
“ places in my mother’s room, seeming to be there as

“ judges, appealed to by Mr. Daubeny on every occasion,
“ and always implicitly according with him, and asking
“ questions as his advocates. In the agitation of my
“ spirits their presence gave me little concern; I only
“ thought the introduction of strangers did not hold out
“ a promising aspect for effecting family reconciliation.
“ Yet notwithstanding all these discouragements, I had
“ the comfort of being received to the bosom of my dearest
“ mother, with expressions that are engraved on my heart
“ and without one word of severity or prohibition. When
“ a command then comes the next day under your hand,
“ with notice that I and my children are to be turned
“ away from my mother’s door, if we ever appear there
“ again, I protest against such a command, as not hers;
“ as unjust to me, inconsistent with her conduct, and
“ shocking to nature. *You too*, to convey it to me! *You*,
“ who reproached me but the other day with scandalizing
“ my mother for saying that she ever turned me from her
“ doors. No! when my mother sees and hears me, and
“ then thinks proper to lay on me any commands, I will
“ dutifully obey her. At the same time, when I reflect
“ on her age and infirmities, which naturally render
“ her dependent on those that surround her, who are
“ constantly urging every argument against me, and not
“ one word for me; then I consider it a mercy of Provi-
“ dence, that she had kindness and resolution to say what
“ she did. It is a balm to my heart, which will give me
“ comfort while I live. As to the terms on which alone
“ I am offered reconciliation, they are held out to delude,
“ because you must know them to be impracticable. My
“ oath, the solemn oath of an innocent woman, is as valid
“ as that of the most sacred character. You have my

“ letter of last Christmas two years, after just receiving
“ the sacrament, confirming it. You saw Mr. Coham’s
“ letter to my mother, written almost with his dying hand,
“ confirming my oath. You know too that every con-
“ current circumstance establishes the certainty of my
“ evidence; and if it were necessary, I could now call on
“ two other witnesses. Yet you invite me to confess that
“ I perjured myself. And why? Because Mr. Daubeny
“ denies what I related; and his word or memory is proof
“ *enough*! Is this common justice? He himself had the
“ candour to admit that he might at times have spoken
“ with heat, and with too much earnestness, although he
“ denies it in this instance. Why should he expect that
“ I must be thought wantonly and wickedly perjured,
“ rather than that his memory should be questioned? He
“ might have heard this story as he did others, and re-
“ lated it to me as certain; but finding it false, the whole
“ may have passed from his memory. Of this, however,
“ I pretend not to judge. I related facts; I never ascribed
“ motives or intentions to him, as he is too apt to do to me.

“ If you shall be disposed to address me in terms of
“ peace and good-will, I shall be happy to forget what is
“ past, and to be what a sister ought to be; but if you
“ rather choose the stile of anger, I must beg you to spare
“ yourself and me the trouble of farther letters of that
“ kind; for it is in vain to demand of me what you know,
“ as well as I do, to be impossible to be performed. If
“ you persist also in your plan of rejecting me from our
“ mother’s house, of continuing disunion in all our fa-
“ mily, and of shewing to the various branches of our
“ connections, the example of unchristian aversion; I do
“ sincerely pray, that at that tribunal where you and all of

“ us must soon appear, the measure of GOD’s dealing to
 “ you may be different from your’s to me; and that He
 “ may shew you that acceptance, which you refused to
 “ your injured sister, C. MEADE.”

In a few days Mrs. Meade received from her sister a letter, which differed little from her former, except in being somewhat more uncivil and unkind.

Mrs. M. BARNSTON to Mrs. MEADE.

“ Dear Sister, *Bath, Sept. 26, 1803.*

“ Although your letter is written in a stile as might lead
 “ you to expect no answer to it, I still owe it to truth and
 “ justice to protest against the gross misrepresentation en-
 “ tertained in it, respecting what passed at the interview
 “ with our mother.

“ I shall not enter into the particulars, because they
 “ are to be established by the testimony of those who
 “ were present, having been immediately committed to
 “ paper by three different persons on your departure, and
 “ therefore will at all times speak for themselves. And
 “ the contents of your letter only serve to prove how ne-
 “ cessary the attendance of proper witnesses was on the
 “ occasion. I shall only add, that my mother’s orders
 “ respecting your not being admitted again, till you have
 “ done justice to injured characters, have been most ab-
 “ solutely given to all her servants. And I shall consider
 “ it my duty to prevent to the utmost the peace of my
 “ mother from being unnecessarily disturbed. As a sister,

“ I cannot help deeply lamenting your continuance in
 “ wilful falshoods.

I am, &c.

“ M. BARNSTON.”*

Mrs. Meade thought proper to answer this letter, and thus ended the correspondence.

Mrs. MEADE to Mrs. M. BARNSTON.

“ Dear Sister,

“ After my last request I did hope that you would have
 “ spared yourself and me the pain of writing again in the
 “ same stile; nor can I indeed see why you have done it
 “ now. The morning after my dearest mother received
 “ me with tenderness, and gave me her blessing, you
 “ wrote to forbid me and my children from her house;
 “ and now you only repeat the same prohibition with some-
 “ what more asperity. I do not pretend to be unaffected
 “ by such wounds from those who were once the dearest,
 “ as they are still amongst the nearest, of my connections;
 “ but I can with truth say, that I feel more concern for
 “ those who utter such insults, than I do for myself; and
 “ I am sure that in charity you ought not; and as my
 “ sister, you have no right to use the unwarrantable lan-
 “ guage you have done, which is as far from truth as it is
 “ from justice. I hope, however, that no provocation
 “ shall ever draw from me any expression unbecoming a
 “ Christian. The time will come when you will certainly
 “ wish that you had acted more as a peace-maker, which
 “ was the character that naturally belonged to you on this
 “ occasion, than suffered yourself to be made use of as a

* To any one accustomed to the writings of Mrs. M. Barnston, and of Mr. Daubeny, it will be plain enough who composed this short letter.

“ party in a quarrel, without reason or provocation. I
 “ told you in my last letter, what I must now repeat, that
 “ if you wish to address me as a sister ought to do, I shall
 “ be always happy to meet you more than half way, and
 “ be ready to forget all that is past; but if you persist in
 “ the same stile, I request and insist upon it, that you
 “ spare me and yourself the pain of such unnatural cor-
 “ respondence. My time is too much engaged in attend-
 “ ing to a pretty large family, and my health too impor-
 “ tant to my children, whose education is committed to
 “ me, to suffer my peace of mind to be thus broken in
 “ upon. As to the message you give me as from my
 “ dear mother, I reject it, as I told you before, as not
 “ hers; nor shall I ever admit or accept any message as
 “ hers, but such as she delivers to me herself, and that
 “ when she is free from undue influence. Whatever
 “ commands she may please to give me under such cir-
 “ cumstances, I will most dutifully obey; but I protest
 “ against all others.

“ You should have received this answer sooner, had I
 “ been at home; but after the late scenes which I had to
 “ go through, I found it convenient both for my health
 “ and spirits to visit distant friends, and your letters fol-
 “ lowed me. Under all the treatment I have received,
 “ I still subscribe myself your affectionate but much-
 “ injured sister,

C. MEADE.”

Mr. and Mrs. Meade, now sensible that no hope re-
 mained of effecting reconciliation, gave up all thoughts
 of farther efforts, little suspecting that this last strange
 scene would be ever quoted by their opponents. But they
 soon learned with astonishment that Mr. Daubeny and
 his party were unusually active to turn even this interview

to Mrs Meade's discredit. A statement of it was prepared, and not only sent to the family, but publicly circulated with great industry; and in this statement every step taken by Mrs. Meade was *condemned*, and Mr. Daubeny's conduct *vindicated*; while stories, in some instances ridiculous, and which in fact confute themselves, were asserted with all the confidence of truth. At one time it was said, "that the jury which tried the cause was "bribed." Again, "that Mrs. Meade confessed before "her mother and the Miss Mafons, that she had actually "perjured herself at the trial;" "that Dr. Blayney had "written just before his death to Mr. Daubeny, retracting "his friendship for Mr. Meade;" "that Mrs. Barnston, "by the words *long-lost* child, meant *LOST, PROFLIGATE, and ABANDONED*;" "that Mrs. Meade, by "asking *whether Mr. Daubeny wanted her to proclaim herself a perjured wretch*, meant that *she really was so*, but that she was *unwilling to hear it proclaimed to the world*." But let those who would judge of this transaction take a general connected view of its circumstances, without regard to prejudiced details of either party. Before Mrs. Meade waited on her mother, she stated distinctly the object she sought, and the means she proposed for attaining it; her letter has been given in a preceding page; and it is hoped that there is not a sentiment in it unbecoming a Daughter, a Sister, and a Christian. She took with her her youngest child, that once at least in her life she might be presented to her grandmother! but it was not permitted. Mrs. Meade expected to see her mother alone; but she found her surrounded by hostile parties and partizans. She wrote, and she declared, "that "she went only to implore blessing and peace;" but no

language was heard but of altercation. She was never once permitted to address her mother; nor was a single friend or relation of the family apprised of the meeting; or she herself prepared to meet a party, which appeared assembled to wound her. The pretences used to colour all this injustice are manifest. The story of Bishop Moss is directly contradicted by himself. That of Dr. Blayney excited the indignation of those companions who lived with him till his death, his wife and sister, who both expressed their indignation at such ungenerous misstatements. To vindicate a special jury of London merchants from an imputation of *bribery*, would be to degrade them. The assertion "that Mrs. Meade confessed guilt," is sufficiently refuted by her accusers themselves. These and many similar observations will probably not escape the reader, and will help him to form his judgment of the parties; nor will he overlook the open acknowledgment of the dependence of Mrs. Barnston on Mr. Daubeny, by Mrs. M. Barnston's writing to Mrs. Meade, "that all future correspondence and communication between her and her mother must be directed to him,* and pass through him."

As for the Miss Mafons, their opinion of Mr. and Mrs. Meade, to whom they are *absolute strangers*, can be considered only as Mr. Daubeny's; and nothing could be more convenient for him than the zeal of such friends. Impressed, as it should seem, with a religious persuasion

* "What you have further to say on this subject must be addressed to Mr. Daubeny, who will communicate it to the family; my mother being turned of eighty-five years, and wishing to be free from trouble."—Extract of a letter from Mrs. Mary Barnston to Mrs. Meade, dated September 6th, 1804, just before Mrs. Meade's interview with her mother.

of his integrity and sufferings, they set no bounds to their activity in support of his cause, and by such means an unhappy private family dispute is become a general subject of conversation, distracting and dividing even friends and connexions. It is a singular fact, that those ladies were strangers to Mr. Daubeny until nine years after his cause with Mr. Meade was decided; that is, till within these three or four years. Yet these new friends are the persons whom he has chosen as the depositaries of his family papers. To these is committed a trunk full of documents, of letters, of notes, and of scraps; written by brothers and sisters in confidence and affection, without thought or distrust, before a possibility of disunion was even suspected; but which Mr. Daubeny, with cold foresight and prudence, set by, and preserved for future use. All these papers are arranged, noted, explained, and commented upon, so as to answer Mr. Daubeny's purpose, and give to them a sense which suits his wishes. These comments and explanations impose on a few readers, whose meaning and intention may be good, but who, in supporting or justifying such inflexible conduct, are deluded into a forgetfulness of the weighty matters of the law, for the end of the commandment is charity. And when such unchristian disunion is seen under such circumstances between a parent and a child, and between other near connexions, what a triumph is given to infidels!

(D.)

IT is with much concern that Mr. Meade sees the name of the Bishop of Durham introduced into this dispute; but those who applied to his Lordship must answer for it to him. The first intimation Mr. Meade had of his Lordship's interference was in the spring of 1793, when Dr. Blayney conveyed to him the following memorandum* from the Bishop, who had received some of Mr. Meade's papers from the Doctor, *after* having first read those of Mr. Daubeny.

“ The Bishop of Durham wished not to have been called
“ upon by either party, to give an opinion relative to the
“ unhappy dispute between Mr. C. Daubeny and Mr.
“ Meade. The importunity of the former extorted from
“ the Bishop a reluctant consent to read his justification
“ of himself; and his conduct, on the grounds of his own
“ statement, appeared to admit of vindication. The
“ Bishop having thus perused the evidence on one side,
“ thought it but common justice to enquire what might
“ be alleged on the other. He has accordingly examined
“ all the papers relative to the transaction in Dr. Blay-
“ ney's possession, with the impartiality requisite in a
“ question which involves in it the characters of respect-
“ able men. The series of letters between Dr. Blayney
“ and Mr. Daubeny, which those papers furnish, im-
“ presses a conviction on the Bishop of Durham's mind,

* The original is in Mr. Meade's possession.

“ that the failure of the proposed accommodation, previous to the trial, was not owing to Mr. Meade or Dr. Blayney. He is satisfied of Mr. Meade’s innocence ; and of the strict honour and integrity of Dr. Blayney and Mr. Coham.”

Mr. Meade is still ignorant of the charges which were brought against him before the Bishop of Durham ; he presumes they were serious, by their “ *involving character,*” and by the Bishop declaring his conviction of “ Mr. Meade’s *innocence.*” But although his Lordship expressed no reflection on Mr. Daubeny, and declared his opinion to be formed after a due and impartial enquiry ; yet Mr. Daubeny appears to have felt so much resentment that a person should be pronounced innocent, whom *he* had accused, that, as the Bishop informed Dr. Blayney, Mr. Daubeny would not speak to him afterwards. But in December 1798, that is, upwards of five years afterwards, Dr. Blayney wrote to Mr. Meade as follows : * “ I was at Mongewell about ten days ago, when the Bishop of Durham told me, that he had been surprised with a letter from Mr. C. Daubeny, modestly desiring, that he, with the Archbishop of York, and the Bishop of London, would commission some clergymen to examine into the affair between him and you. The Bishop said that he had put by the letter without an answer ; and he could not think that any other Bishop would be ready to take upon him the re-judging a matter which had already been determined upon in a court of law. The Bishop also expressed much surprise and indignation at Mr. Daubeny’s applying to him at all, *after what had passed between them.*”

* The original is in Mr. Meade’s possession.

Mr. Meade had never seen the Bishop of Durham; but his Lordship having liberally subscribed to a small work, which Mr. Meade had translated into English, and published for a French emigrant, he waited on his Lordship to present a copy to him, and took the opportunity of thanking him for the trouble he had in his affairs; when his Lordship, with much liberality, disclaimed all right to thanks, saying, "that he had only done by Mr. Meade an act of common justice." But after a farther lapse of years, Dr. Blayney, the mutual and beloved friend of the Bishop and of Mr. Meade, being dead, and Mr. Daubeny having become distinguished as a writer, his Lordship was again applied to, in 1805, by Mr. Daubeny, and induced to lend an ear to his story. And Mr. Meade has to lament his Lordship's being surprised into a momentary forgetfulness of his former maxim of the justice and duty of hearing both sides. But Mr. Daubeny not only appears to have had powerful advocates with his Lordship; but irresistible stories were related against Mrs. Meade, among which was a bold assertion, "*that she had made voluntary confessions of her own criminality;*" and another, "*that Dr. Blayney had declared in Mr. Daubeny's favour a short time before his death;*" the consequence of which was, that the Bishop of Durham was fully reconciled to Mr. Daubeny. But his Lordship at length distrusting, as it should seem, his information, sent to Mrs. Blayney to acquaint her with the communications which Mr. Daubeny himself had made to him of the above facts, and requested she would satisfy him as to the truth of them. In reply to which Mrs. Blayney conveyed to his Lordship Mrs. Meade's refutation of the pretended confessions; and on her own part she assured him,

“that the story related of her late husband was absolutely “untrue.” And as it is *now* pretended that Mr. Daubeny only meant to convey the idea, that if the Doctor *had lived, he would* probably have changed his opinions, Mrs. Blayney and Mrs. M. Blayney can testify that Mr. Meade was the last friend on earth to whom he paid a visit; and the physician* who attended him in his last illness, will bear testimony, that the subject of Mr. Daubeny’s conduct to Mr. and Mrs. Meade was much talked of then in the family, and with the same sentiments as ever.

The gentleman whom the Bishop of Durham commissioned to wait on Mrs. Blayney in his Lordship’s name, was a respectable clergyman, who naturally was happy to communicate to Mr. Meade, “that the Bishop of Durham, *having made enquiry* respecting the assertions he “had heard from Mr. C. Daubeny,† expressed himself “satisfied that there was no foundation for them.” And Mrs. Blayney also assured Mr. Meade, “that the Bishop’s “mind was perfectly convinced that the stories were “without foundation.”

The history of “the pretended confessions” has been explained in this Appendix. But that respecting “Dr. Blayney’s *change of opinion* is in all its parts deserving of the reader’s particular attention; it being a revival of a former method practised by Mr. Daubeny to injure Mr. Meade, the circumstances of which it is necessary to bring to the reader’s mind. In the year 1792, Mrs. Meade, then Miss Barnston, being examined in Court as a witness, stated, that Mr. Daubeny sent for her to his house,

* Dr. Falconer.

† The letters are in Mr. Meade’s possession.

and after laying open to her all the circumstances "of
 " Mr. Meade's (imputed) guilt," assured her, " that his
 " cause was given up by his closest friends Dr. Blayney and
 " Mr. Coham, to whom an account of it had been sent."
 But this last story being proved to be an invention, and
 Lord Kenyon having particularly noticed it, as marking
 Mr. Daubeny's intentions, and as a fact in which there
 could be no *mistake*, the latter has for many years directed
 his efforts to get rid of Mrs. Meade's evidence, or to in-
 duce her to give it up. But when shocking charges of
perjury are so boldly made against a religious woman, it
 is providential that she can still confirm her oath by facts.
 At the time when Mr. Daubeny told her that Mr. Meade
 was abandoned by his friends, he was in Ireland, and
 unconscious of this attack on him. And although the
 story was soon dropt, Dr. Blayney and Mr. Coham dis-
 proving it by their open support of their absent friend,
 yet for a time it made a deeper impresson on Mrs. Meade's
 mind than any thing she had heard before. After noting
 it in her journal, she wrote directly to Mrs. Gunning,
 informing her with concern of the circumstance; and
 Mrs. Gunning wrote* in consequence to Mr. Meade.
 In other letters Miss Barnston mentioned it again to Mrs.
 Gunning; and she also wrote to Archdeacon Coham,
 which she had never before done, entreating him for her
 honour and happiness sake, " to explain distinctly why
 " he had given up his friend." Of this the Archdeacon
 bore testimony a short time before his death, in a letter to
 Mrs. Barnston, written, as he told her, " to draw the
 " veil from her mind before it was too late;" declaring to

* These letters are all in Mr. Meade's possession.

her that Mrs. Meade's application to him was made, "with trembling and astonishment, a year before a trial "was thought of." Mrs. Meade mentioned the circumstance at the time to her relations at Haddon; and she went immediately to her Aunt Ravenhill to enquire whether "she also had heard it from Mr. Daubeny." Will any one believe that a woman in her senses would have done this, if she had heard nothing on the subject? In fact there was not one motive that could induce her to invent, if any one could suppose her capable of such wickedness! But Mr. Daubeny did not confine his information on this subject to Miss Barnston; for his friend, the Rev. Mr. Hooker, told her the same story, *as he heard it from Mr. Daubeny*, and urged it to her as a weighty argument against Mr. Meade. Miss Barnston solemnly declared the fact *upon her oath*, when called on for her evidence as a witness! And will any one of a serious mind listen to the shocking charge of *perjury*, imputed to her by that person, who was chiefly affected by the involuntary testimony she bore? Dr. Blayney and Mr. Coham denied with indignation Mr. Daubeny's assertion, as it respected them; and the Judge and the Court saw in it manifest proofs of *Mr. Daubeny's intentions*; who therefore adopts the bold resource of endeavouring to save himself, by pronouncing the whole to be *perjury*; and the PROOF is, *his own word*! It is presumed that it is unnecessary to make any reply to this *proof*, or to the argument founded on it!

The above story about Dr. Blayney and Archdeacon Coham was related to Miss Barnston by Mr. Daubeny in June 1791. And it is a singular fact, that in September 1803, he related a similar story, equally unfounded,

of one of the same persons, and for a similar purpose, as that just stated. At the interview Mrs. Meade had with her mother in September 1803, Mr. Daubeny, pressing his arguments against her with much earnestness, not only made the assertion already mentioned respecting Bishop Moss, which his Lordship has so positively denied; but he ventured also to state, "that he had himself received a letter " from Dr. Blayney, acknowledging a change in his sentiments favourable towards him; and the contrary towards Mr. and Mrs. Meade." And on Mrs. Meade's expressing surprise, and declaring it "to be *new* to her," he added, "that it was very shortly before his death." Mrs. Meade naturally related the circumstance to Mr. Meade, and to different friends; as, to Mrs. Lyte's family, to the Clergyman of her parish, to Mrs. Blayney, and Mrs. M. Blayney, and others. But the story was, like many such, disregarded by Mr. Meade, until Mr. Champneys, in about a fortnight, mentioned it to him again with much concern, as he had just heard it from the two Miss Masons, who were present when Mr. Daubeny told it to Mrs. Meade, in presence of her mother. Mr. Meade then considering it a justice to himself, and to the memory of his beloved and honoured friend, to take some notice of it, declared that if such a letter could be produced, he would give up his verdict, and every thing else. But if the letter were not produced, (and Mr. Meade averred that such could not be produced) he ventured to pronounce the whole story a fabrication.

Mr. Champneys, feeling a generous interest in the affair, took opportunities of enquiring and conversing with the Miss Masons' on the subject; and pursued it, until at length the whole story which they at first had related with

triumph and confidence, was given up altogether as a **MISTAKE!** *Whose mistake* it was, is not mentioned. But the reader will observe that the *two* Miss Mafons' having borne testimony to the story, one was a confirmation to the other; as they both, and Mrs. Meade mutually, but very unintentionally, confirmed also the certainty of each other's account; each having separately communicated the fact to their respective friends. If any proof were wanting on this subject, the Bishop of Durham supplies it, for his Lordship* acknowledges, "that *he also* did "understand Mr. Daubeny himself to have told him the "same story; that he did *in consequence* make enquiries of "Mrs. Blayney into the truth of it; and that he received "an answer from her, as has been already stated by Mr. "Meade;" that is, denying it with indignation.

It is true that Mr. Daubeny has persuaded the Bishop of Durham, that *his Lordship also* mistook him. But the facts as related here are sufficient for Mr. Meade's purpose, and the reader is left to form his own judgment!

* In a letter to Mr. Meade, July 1805.

(E.)

ON the 8th of March, 1804, Mr. Meade received the following letter in Mr. Daubeny's writing, with no name to it :—

“ Mr. Meade is desired to break to Mrs. Meade the circumstance of our good mother's death. She was suddenly seized at dinner, and went off, after some few hours' painful struggle, about eleven o'clock the same night. The family are all as well as may be expected. Thursday morning.—Queen's-Parade.”

In a few days the following notice came without a name to Mrs. Meade, in Mr. Daubeny's writing also :

“ Mrs M. Barnston having delivered a sealed packet, addressed to the Rev. Charles Daubeny and Westgarth Snaith, esq; purporting to be the will of the late Mrs. Barnston; they therefore take this earliest opportunity of informing Mrs. Meade, that it is their intention to open the said packet to-morrow morning, between twelve and one o'clock, at No. 8, in the Crescent,* should Mrs. Meade wish to attend on the occasion: or, should Mrs. Meade prefer it, when the will has been proved in the Commons, they will send her an attested copy.

“ Crescent, Monday morning, March 12, 1804.”

* Mr. Daubeny's house.

Mrs. Meade fortunately declined to accept the offer, as useless and distressing to her; although she did not at that time know, and could not suspect, the wounds she must have received, if she had accepted the invitation.

In two or three days Mrs. Meade received the following letter from Mr. Daubeny:

“MADAM,

“WE are just returned from paying our last office to your good mother; and concluding it may be satisfactory to receive intelligence on the subject of her will, I take this earliest opportunity of sending it.

“Your mother has directed the residue of her property to be divided into four equal portions, one portion of which to be paid to each of her three eldest daughters; and that out of the fourth remaining portion, the sum of 800l. with accumulating interest upon it from the 6th day of June 1792, when the unhappy trial took place, up to the day of her death, should be first paid to the Rev. Charles Daubeny; and the remaining sum vested in trust for the benefit of your children. But it not being in my mind, to receive back more than the said sum of 800l.; and as I should be sorry that your children had not a beneficial interest in the will of their grandmother, I have desired my brother executor to add the sum given to me in the will, under the shape of interest, to what may remain of the fourth division of your mother’s property, to be vested in trust for your children, according to the plan laid down in the will. And I have only to lament, that any event should have rendered this distinction in your mother’s will in her

“ judgment necessary. Your mother’s property* amounts
 “ to somewhere about 7500*l*. The legacies to 860*l*.

“ *With best wishes for your happiness,*

“ I remain your *faithful servant,*

“ CHARLES DAUBENY.

“ Wednesday morning, Queen’s-Parade, March 1804.”

As this letter did not appear to call for an answer, Mrs. Meade was glad to be silent. It did not become her to reject for her children what was not offered to her choice; and to accept from Mr. Daubeny, as a favour, a small part of her own share of her mother’s fortune, might be construed into an acknowledgment of the justice of her being deprived of it, which Mr. Daubeny’s letter insinuated; and the event justified her sentiments, for in a short time she received a letter from Mr. Daubeny, in which was the following intimation :

“ I sent a letter to you the other day at Chatley, the
 “ purpose of which was to inform you, that my offer in

* That the disposition of this property may be fairly understood, it stands thus:—To Mrs. M. Barnston 166*l*. To Mrs. Sikes 166*l*. To Mr. and Mrs. Daubeny 299*l*. To Mrs. Meade, nothing; 127*l*. of her share being given immediately to Mr. Daubeny, in the two sums of 800*l*. and in the amount of accumulating interest upon 800*l*. for near twelve years, and the remainder of Mrs. Meade’s share, being somewhat less than 100*l*. for each child, being placed in trust for her four children ; of which trust Mr. Daubeny and a friend of his are the trustees for nearly sixteen years ; even this trifle returning to Mrs. Meade’s sisters, if the children die under age, Mrs. Meade being indeed allowed a life interest in the income of it, if she should survive all her children ; the youngest of whom was not five years old when the will was made.

“favour of your children not having been accepted by
“you, was considered as rejected; and that in consequence
“directions had been given to carry your mother’s will
“into regular execution.

“With *best wishes for your happiness,*

“Madam, your humble servant,

“CHARLES DAUBENY.”

To this letter Mrs. Meade replied as follows:

“SIR,

“I HAVE to acknowledge your two letters. It was
“in the belief that my mother’s will was proved, that I
“desired a copy of it, which you proposed to send me;
“and the transfer of my father’s stock was of no other
“importance, than as I might accept it while I remain
“in London. To the other parts of your letter, I ima-
“gined I had nothing to reply. Your letter in March,
“informing me of my mother’s will, mentioned that you
“should keep the portion of her fortune, which the will
“gave to you from me; but that you should not take
“interest on it for twelve years back, which the will also
“gave to you; that this last should remain in the same
“trust for my children which the will had made; and
“that you had instructed Mr. Snaith accordingly. But
“as neither my opinion, advice, or consent was asked,
“nor my acceptance or approbation desired, as my mo-
“ther’s will had made a little trust for my children, of
“which I neither knew the nature, nor names of the
“trustees, I did not imagine I had any thing to say; it
“rested with yourself to do as you pleased.

“ Your letter of last week informed me of the change
 “ in your intentions, and that you will keep all that my
 “ mother’s will gives to you, interest as well as principal.
 “ Your letter of yesterday repeats the same. I have only
 “ to reply on *this* determination, as I must have done on
 “ the former, that it rests in your own breast to do as you
 “ please. I am, Sir, &c.

“ CATHERINE MEADE.”

In the mean time Mrs. Meade wrote to her two sisters, Mrs. M. Barnston and Mrs. Sikes, earnestly desiring a return of friendship and reconciliation, not knowing what effect the death of a mother might have in disposing their hearts towards it.

Mrs. MEADE to Mrs. MARY BARNSTON.

“ Dear Sister,

March, 1804.

“ AFTER the loss of our beloved mother, which must
 “ have been particularly felt by you, I should be glad to
 “ know that you are tolerably well. Let me have the
 “ satisfaction of hearing it, and it will be a great pleasure
 “ to me; great indeed, if you will join with me in for-
 “ getting all that is past, and uniting with me in love
 “ and friendship. Nothing that is sisterly and friendly
 “ shall be wanting on my part, for I can never feel but as
 “ a sister and a friend towards you. My mother satisfied
 “ a pecuniary difficulty; I bow to it with duty and re-
 “ spect, for myself and my children. I loved and ho-
 “ noured her when living, and I venerate her memory,

“ I hear you talk of paying a visit to Hackney, but
“ have not heard when. If you wish to see me in Bath,
“ or if you will come out to Chatley to see me and my
“ children, it will be an unspeakable pleasure to me, for
“ I shall always be, with sincere regards,

“ Your affectionate sister,

“ CATHERINE MEADE.”

Mrs. M. BARNSTON to Mrs. MEADE.

“ Dear Sister,

March, 1804.

“ I AM obliged to you for your enquiries after my
“ health, which though far from well, is as I expected it
“ to be, after such an event. With respect to forget-
“ ting all that is past, I have to say, that though I am
“ not insensible of the manner in which I have been
“ treated, yet if what passed merely concerned myself, as
“ a sister I feel a sufficient degree of affection to pass it all
“ over, for the sake of that family concord, which has
“ always been to me most desirable. But as a daughter
“ of an excellent and beloved mother, I owe a duty to
“ her memory, which I shall ever think myself bound to
“ discharge. I have to lament therefore, which I sincerely
“ do, that I cannot keep up connection with a sister, who
“ has been the cause of that mother’s character being
“ grossly misrepresented, and the peace of an harmonious
“ family being broken. Under these circumstances, you
“ cannot wonder that I can neither wish to visit, or be
“ visited by you. And I must request that our corres-
“ pondence may cease, as a continuance of it, I am sorry

“ to say, can answer no purpose, but that of unnecessarily
“ distressing me.

“ Believe me, with the sincerest wishes for your health
“ and happiness,

“ Your affectionate sister,

“ MARY BARNSTON.”

Although Mrs. Meade well knew, from the stile of this letter, who was the composer of it, yet as her sister adopted the sentiments of it, she thought proper to give the following reply.

Mrs. MEADE'S Answer to her sister Mrs.

MARY BARNSTON.

“ Dear Sister,

“ IN my last letter I addressed you as a sister to whom
“ I had always been tenderly attached, and with whom
“ I never had any kind of personal difference. I wrote
“ to you, at a time when my health and spirits were low
“ enough; but yet I could not forget what you must
“ peculiarly feel on the loss of our beloved and only
“ parent. What an answer have I received! and what
“ would I not give to learn that it was the effect of sudden
“ anger or mistake, and that you wished to retract it! You
“ should still find me, what an injured and innocent per-
“ son always is, ready to *forget* and to *forgive*. But at
“ present the respect I owe to my condition in life calls
“ on me to say, that I never shall obtrude myself on a
“ sister who has treated me so unwarrantably,

" If you were poor, or if it should please GOD to re-
 " duce you, you should find in me a friend and a sister,
 " with affections disposed to comfort you as far as I could.
 " But you are in a state to confer, not to receive favours;
 " and I thank GOD, I want none. I never shall court
 " your wealth; and my children shall be taught to be
 " contented with what the affection of my poor father
 " secured for them. If instead of the few hundred pounds
 " which my mother's will leaves in trust for my children,
 " she had, like my father, made me equal to my sisters, it
 " would not have added to the love I shall ever preserve
 " for her memory. Nor if she had passed us by alto-
 " gether, would it have altered one sentiment of my
 " affection for her. During twelve years she never saw a
 " friend of mine. She saw me *only once*; and then as
 " at a public meeting. If she withheld from my children
 " what by nature they might have expected, it was to
 " make them pay money, which *she thought* was their
 " debt, although in fact neither they, nor any belonging
 " to us, had any of it.

" Shocked as I am at your letter, I should not give
 " myself the pain to answer it, but that I shall ever hold
 " up my hands and my voice against such unjust accu-
 " sations as you make. '*The duty you owe to our*
 " '*mother's memory will for ever bind you to keep up*
 " '*no connection with a sister who grossly misrepres-*
 " '*ented her character.*' Oh! shame, shame, sister!
 " retract that sentence before it is too late; retract it for
 " your own sake, I charge you. *I use her ill!* I should
 " scorn to answer so barbarous a charge, but to a deluded
 " sister. Not one of you did or could love her more than
 " I did; and her delusion never altered my affection.

“ And do you make her blessed memory the foundation
 “ of continuing disunion? Poor dear soul! she could
 “ utter only blessings on me and mine. It is but a few
 “ months since you saw me embraced by her, and receiv-
 “ ing those blessings without one sentiment of anger!
 “ Perhaps you don’t know, what I can prove, *that she*
 “ *afterwards repeatedly thanked God that she had*
 “ *seen me.* Tell me now in another letter, “ *that I*
 “ *‘ was always BAD from my childhood!’* for such has
 “ been asserted in your name. Tell me, “ *that from my*
 “ *‘ youth I always used you LIKE A DOG!’* Can you
 “ as a Christian hear such falsehoods published in your
 “ name? If you desire to know by whom all this is said,
 “ I will tell you. What a change is this, since you were
 “ as a mother† to me! But let me receive these wounds
 “ as trials; and as I bear them, so I trust they will be
 “ recorded for me.

“ I will not dwell on all the falsehoods which are cir-
 “ culated; as that ‘ I confessed guilt before my mother;’
 “ ‘ that she was unhappy* at seeing me;’ ‘ that it was you
 “ ‘ who invited the strangers into her apartment, when
 “ ‘ she received me;’ ‘ that Dr. Blayney renounced his
 “ ‘ friendship with us just before his death;’ and many
 “ others. I am well aware that you are every day more
 “ and more weaned from me and mine by long separation.

† Mrs. M. Barnston is twenty years older than Mrs. Meade.

* So far is this assertion from truth, that one of Mrs. Barnston’s
 nearest relations in Bath wrote to Mrs. Meade a few days after this
 interview, to give her the “ comfort of knowing that her poor
 “ mother appeared more tranquil and happy since she had seen
 “ her than for a long time before.” The original is in Mr.
 Meade’s possession,

“ Yet if your eyes should be ever opened to the injustice
 “ of your conduct to me, and you shall be disposed to
 “ address me *as a sister*, you shall always find me ready
 “ to receive you as such. But if you resolve to persist in
 “ injurious language, I request and I insist upon it that you
 “ will not continue to wound and insult me with such.

“ With sincere wishes for your happiness, but in a
 “ sentiment very different from that of your letter, I
 “ remain always your affectionate sister,

“ CATHERINE MEADE.”

Mrs. Meade wrote to her sister Mrs. Sikes in the same
 file of affection as to Mrs. M. Barnston, and her answer
 expressed much attachment; and it could not well
 be otherwise, for they *never* had a shade of disagreement.
 But ten days elapsing before that answer was given, Mrs.
 Meade was not unprepared for the result. Mrs. Sikes
 “ declined to keep up any intercourse with her sister, lest
 “ it might seem to reflect on their mother, who had not
 “ done it.” This determination of Mrs. Sikes was truly
 painful to Mrs. Meade; because she had always been
 affectionately attached to her, and to all her children; and
 she ever felt the sincerest esteem and sisterly love for
 Mr. Sikes.

In a few days Mr. Daubeny wrote to Mrs. Meade the
 following letter :

“ Madam,

“ I received your last letter from London, but deferred
 “ answering it till my return to Bath, because it did not
 “ require an immediate answer. At the same time I

“ think that some answer should be returned to it; be-
“ cause it belongs to my character to give a reason for
“ the change of my intention on the subject of your
“ mother’s will. That intention was certainly commu-
“ nicated to Mr. Snaith then in Bath: he waited only
“ my official directions to carry it into effect. When I
“ communicated that intention to you, I considered that
“ you had made such acknowledgment on the subject as
“ might constitute a ground-work for farther conciliation
“ in the family, by admitting at the interview which took
“ place between yourself, your mother, two sisters, two
“ other ladies, and myself, about six months before your
“ mother’s death, ‘ that you had gained a verdict for
“ ‘ Mr. Meade by your *notoriously false evidence* ;’
“ concluding, however, ‘ that though obliged to admit
“ ‘ this to be fact, still you would never allow yourself to
“ ‘ be a perjured woman, because you had no malicious
“ ‘ intention against me.’ The prominent parts of your
“ evidence in court were on this occasion detailed before
“ you, and such you must remember was your conclusion
“ on the whole of it. To which my answer was, that
“ the distinction between wilful false swearing and per-
“ jury was too nice a one for me to find out; all that I had
“ to do was, with the effect of your evidence; and this,
“ the duty I owed to myself and family, called on me to
“ counteract, at least as far as circumstances would permit.
“ To the particulars of this interview you need not be
“ told, that the two ladies present are ready to bear their
“ most decided testimony. This interview having taken
“ place, I felt particular satisfaction on the subject of
“ your mother’s will, because it furnished me with an
“ opportunity of returning good for evil, and of conviu-

“ cing you in the most striking way what my disposition
 “ towards you was. The conclusion drawn from the letter
 “ written to you on this occasion, I flattered myself would
 “ have been, that after the concessions made on your part,
 “ I was desirous that the unhappy chapter, which you
 “ must know to be a most disgraceful one from the be-
 “ ginning, should be shut up, and no further exposition
 “ of your character take place. With this idea in my
 “ mind, your answer* to my letter disappointed me. I
 “ still however entertained a hope that second considera-
 “ tion would place the subject before you in its proper
 “ light, and on that ground suspended my decision. But
 “ when in a subsequent letter to your sister, your object
 “ appeared to be to efface, as far as your contradiction
 “ could avail, every true vestige of the family interview,
 “ by grossly misrepresenting your mother’s reception; by
 “ denying that you had confessed any guilt before her;
 “ by virtually confirming such denial, by calling yourself
 “ an injured innocent person, and your mother a deluded
 “ one; and by indirectly claiming as the natural right of
 “ your children what your mother thought proper to with-
 “ hold from them, for the satisfaction of what she con-
 “ sidered to be a debt of justice to the children of another
 “ daughter, who had been deprived of a portion of their
 “ natural right by your taking their father on unjust
 “ ground into a court; it became necessary for me to con-

* Mr. Daubeny here again trips. How can he pretend, “ that
 “ Mrs. Meade’s letter disappointed his expectations;” when he
 well knew that six months before, when she heard that she was
 charged with these pretended confessions, she rejected and disclaimed
 them with contempt? See, in the account of the interview, Mrs.
 Meade’s letter to Mrs. M. Barnston, Appendix, letter C.

“sider how far the carrying my original plan into effect
“was, under such circumstances, expedient or proper;
“and the result of my consultation with my friends at
“Bath has been an united and most decided opinion, that
“considering the principle by which the will was evidently
“dictated, the respect due both to the memory of your
“mother, and to my own character, demanded, as things
“now stood, that the will should be carried into regular
“execution; because, to persist in carrying my original
“plan into effect, after my offer had not only been un-
“accepted, but had produced such a bold unqualified de-
“claration on your part, would have the appearance of
“at least tacitly admitting the truth of such declaration,
“and thereby pronouncing an indirect judgment against
“your excellent mother for having made a will, which,
“on the ground of such admission, ought not to have been
“made.

“This letter I am aware can give you no satisfaction.
“I truly lament that you have placed me in such a situ-
“ation, that to my mind has rendered the writing of it
“necessary. But I more deeply lament the circumstance
“of your still persisting to walk on that false ground on
“which, alas! you have been so long walking; because
“you are thereby treasuring up for yourself a more severe
“repentance against the day when repentance shall come;
“for truth must ultimately triumph.

“With the most earnest wishes for your welfare, and
“a desire, as far as character will permit, to contribute to
“it, I conclude in the words of your good mother, addressed
“to you at the close of the late interview, ‘I forgive
“‘you, with all my heart; and may God forgive you,

“ ‘ and open your eyes to see your error, that you may
“ ‘ return into the way of peace.’ ”*

“ Such is the prayer of your *faithful*

“ *Friend and Brother,*

“ May 28, 1804.

CHARLES DAUBENY.”

Mrs. MEADE’S Answer.

“ Sir,

June, 1804.

“ IT was but a few days ago that I saw your letter to
“ me of the 28th of May; Mr. Meade not having thought
“ proper, in the ill state of my health, to give me the
“ trouble of reading it sooner.

“ I do not know whether you expected an answer; nor
“ should I be inclined to give any, but that you may
“ perhaps interpret my silence as assent to your assertions.
“ The confessions you impute to me I utterly disclaim.
“ Indeed, the absurdity of those assertions, and proofs
“ supplied by yourself, are of themselves enough to con-
“ tradict you. But I trust I want no proof. I trust that
“ my character, my word, and my oath, are equal to all
“ the evidence you can produce. If you had ten times
“ the number of witnesses of whom you boast, I should
“ condemn them all. ‘ *I confess voluntarily to such*
“ ‘ *persons, at the moment they were wounding me in*
“ ‘ *the cruellest manner, that my husband obtained a*
“ ‘ *verdict by my own notorious perjury!!!*’ Oh! Mr.

* Mrs. Meade solemnly declares, and she trusts it is unnecessary for her to add that she can and is ready to declare in the most sacred manner, that her poor mother made no such speech, nor uttered a syllable like it; nor indeed did she appear capable of it.

“ Daubeney, for your character and profession’s sake, draw
“ a veil over the whole of that interview. What business
“ had *you there*? I explained to my sister, and I wrote
“ to my mother, (to whom you probably never shewed
“ what I wrote) that I only sought to throw myself at her
“ feet, and to obtain her blessing. What right had *you*
“ to obtrude yourself between her and me? I went alone,
“ expecting to find my mother alone. I was unprotected
“ and unsuspecting. Was it decent or charitable to have
“ a party to surprize and oppose me at the only meeting
“ with her I was suffered to have in twelve years? And
“ when my child went with me to obtain, once in her
“ life at least, her grandmother’s blessing, why was she
“ not permitted to see her; but kept below stairs by
“ your orders; while persons, absolute strangers to me,
“ were placed in my mother’s room? persons, whose
“ minds you had previously inflamed against me, and had
“ worked up their prejudices to a degree of enthusiasm.
“ If you chose to have witnesses, had our family no dis-
“ passionate friends or connexions? Were no relations or
“ peace-makers to be found? Certainly, if I had known
“ your scheme, I should not have trusted my character
“ into so tremendous a situation! As to the part of my
“ mother’s will which gives my share of her fortune chiefly
“ to you, and on which you dwell so much, there is no
“ reason why you should address me about it. It rests
“ with yourself to do as you please; I have nothing to say
“ or do. If you meant the few hundreds you speak of as
“ the price of my admitting your justice and my own
“ infamy, you little know me; if you can believe that
“ millions would bribe me to say what I did not think
“ true; and if not, it is not likely that a trifling portion

“of my own fortune restored to my children could se-
“duce me to it. The speech you ascribe to my beloved
“mother, is like the confession you impute to me; you
“know that she uttered not a word of it. But if she had
“made such a one, it would only prove that she spoke
“what she was told; as her letters (as well as those of
“other people) were evidently written from copies.
“Your endeavours to torture my expressions into disre-
“spect for her are equally unjust. A word of disrespect
“towards her, never escaped my lips or pen. I loved
“and honoured her when living, and I venerate her me-
“mory; and I ever prayed GOD that the goodness of
“her heart, and the situation in which she was placed,
“might be fully considered in her great account. For
“separated as she was from me and mine, no wonder
“there was misunderstanding. But it is time to close
“this unavailing correspondence: for if twelve years’
“efforts for peace have been always so thwarted and per-
“verted by you, as only to irritate the wound which
“should have been healed, what good end can now be
“expected? When I heard you assert before my mother,
“‘that you had received a letter from Dr. Blayney fa-
“vouring your cause;’ and your friends the Miss Mafons’
“related the same afterwards to Mr. Champneys, and
“when pressed into enquiry, gave it up as a *mistake*;
“what good is obtained for the cause of truth and inno-
“cence by such acknowledgment? My mother was gone
“to a better world; and the injury, as far as it concerned
“her, was irreparable. When you assert in your letter
“‘that you considered that *my confessions* were to lead
“‘to farther conciliation;’ have you forgot that the
“very day after these pretended confessions *you yourself*

“ sent to me by express a letter from my sister, ‘ ordering
“ ‘ me never to go again to my mother’s house, nor to
“ ‘ suffer my children to go there; for the servants had
“ ‘ directions to refuse them admittance?’ And when is
“ it that you first express ‘ your expectations of concilia-
“ ‘ tion following my confessions;’ it is after an interval
“ of six months, and in a letter which confirms separa-
“ tion for ever.

“ Let us at least live in peace, if we cannot live in
“ friendship; it is the only civility that is asked of you
“ by your much-injured sister,

“ CATHERINE MEADE.”

“ *P. S.* I request and insist upon it that you will not
“ trouble me with letters, which are only channels to
“ convey insults, and to repeat charges which *you* know
“ to be unfounded. If you have business to write on,
“ it shall be attended to; but nothing else. C. M.”

(F.)

*Copy of the Bishop of LINCOLN's Paper,
sent to Mr. MEADE.*

SOON after I went to Bath, towards the end of last February, I called upon a lady with whom I had long been acquainted; and the dispute between Mr. Daubeny and Mr. Meade happening to be mentioned, she asked me whether I should like to read the pamphlets which had been printed upon the subject, as she thought she could procure them for me. I said that I had no objection, and in a day or two she sent me the printed trial, and Mr. Daubeny's pamphlet. Knowing that several of my friends had adopted different opinions relative to the conduct of Mr. Daubeny and Mr. Meade in this affair; and that one in particular, whom I greatly respected, had changed his sentiments on the subject, I felt a desire to investigate the matter fully; and I was confident I should do it with impartiality, as my mind was entirely free from any bias. I did not know either of the parties personally; but I had been informed, that both Mr. Daubeny and Mr. Meade were willing to shew their original documents to any person who was disposed to examine them: and I considered the subject to be important, as it involved the character of a clergyman who had distinguished himself

as a theological writer. It was mentioned to Mr. Daubeny that I declared myself ready to examine into the subject, if it were his wish that I should do so: and he called upon me to express his readiness to shew me his papers for that purpose. Mr. Daubeny asked me whether I had read the printed pamphlets; and upon my answering that I had read the trial and his pamphlet, he said it was proper that I should read Mr. Meade's pamphlet before I looked at his (Mr. Daubeny's) papers. After reading Mr. Meade's pamphlet, which Mr. Daubeny sent me, I called upon Mr. Daubeny; and in three mornings I read over the letters and original documents which he had to produce. Some of the principal ones I carried home with me, read them a second time, and made extracts from them, with such observations as occurred to me. One document, containing an account of the interview between Mrs. Meade and her mother Mrs. Barnston, in September 1803, had no other signature but that of Mr. Daubeny, which I did not think sufficient in such a case. I asked Mr. Daubeny whether the Miss Masons, who were said to be present at the interview, would bear testimony to the correctness of Mr. Daubeny's account of it. He answered that the younger Miss Mason was in London, but that the elder was in Bath; and that if I chose to call upon her, I might hear what she had to say upon the subject. I waited upon Miss Mason, and she shewed me a copy of Mr. Daubeny's account of the interview, which he had given her soon after it took place. I asked her whether she and her sister considered that account as correct; she answered, "perfectly correct." She then shewed me an account of the same interview, drawn up and signed by her sister immediately after the

interview, and before she saw Mr. Daubeny's account of it; which agreed with Mr. Daubeny's account as nearly as narratives of the same conversation by different persons can be expected to agree, differing in no one material point, each containing some things omitted by the other, but remembered by all the persons present when mentioned to them. Thus far I had confined myself to original documents, and had taken nothing upon the authority of Mr. Daubeny only; but the night before I left Bath, Mr. Daubeny sent me two papers of considerable length drawn up by himself, the one containing a detailed account of what had passed between Mr. Meade and himself, and his family, from the time of the death of the first Mrs. Meade till after the trial, addressed to Dr. Blayney, but never sent to him; and the other a reply to Mr. Meade's pamphlet, which was never published; with permission to carry them to Lymington. The evening before I left Bath, I wrote a letter to Dr. Randolph, of which the following is a copy :

“ Rev. Sir,

“ I came to Bath about three weeks since a perfect
“ stranger to Mr. Daubeny, but I was induced to avail
“ myself of an opportunity which presented itself of ex-
“ amining the letters and other documents in his possession,
“ relative to the dispute between him and Mr. Meade.
“ I think it due to Mr. Meade that he should be informed
“ that I am equally ready to examine any original papers
“ which he may have upon this subject. And as I un-
“ derstand that you are a friend of Mr. Meade's, I take
“ the liberty of requesting you to communicate this infor-
“ mation to him. I should have been very glad to have

" had some conversation with you upon this business, but
 " I did not finish Mr. Daubeney's papers till yesterday,
 " and to-morrow I am under the necessity of leaving
 " Bath. I shall pass the next fortnight at Lymington,
 " and from thence I shall go to London, where I expect
 " to remain till the end of April.

" I am, &c.

" G. LINCOLN."

" Crescent, Bath,

" Sunday Evening, March 17, 1805."

In consequence of this letter, Mr. Meade sent me his papers to Lymington, and they arrived before I had read Mr. Daubeney's two papers mentioned above. I read all Mr. Meade's papers first, and then I read Mr. Daubeney's two papers, which concluded the whole business.

I flatter myself that no investigation could have been carried on with greater impartiality, or in a manner less likely to produce prejudice or hasty opinion on either side. I proceed to state the result.

A great deal of extraneous matter has been introduced into this business; but in stating my opinion, I shall confine myself principally to the evidence given by Miss Catherine Barnston, now Mrs. Meade, upon the trial which took place June 6th, 1792. Upon that occasion Miss C. Barnston swore in court, that her mother had given her full and free consent to her marrying Mr. Meade; but that in consequence of what Mr. Daubeney stated to her, (Miss C. Barnston) in a conversation on the 28th of June, 1791, respecting the will of the former Mrs. Meade, Mr. Daubeney's sister, she had hitherto been prevented from marry-

ing Mr. Meade; that supposing Mr. Meade's character had not been attacked respecting the will, she should undoubtedly have married him; that the conversation she had with her brother-in-law Mr. Daubeney tended to confirm her suspicions; and that after what Mr. Daubeney said respecting the will, the matter had never been cleared up satisfactorily in her own mind. This account of Miss C. Barnston's evidence is taken from the printed trial, and it agrees in substance with the minutes made by Mr. Daubeney's counsel upon their briefs, at the time Miss Barnston gave her evidence in court. In consequence of this evidence, the jury gave a verdict against Mr. Daubeney, with 500*l.* damages; and found that the marriage was lost in consequence of the words spoken by him on the 28th of June, 1791, and that Miss C. Barnston had not made up her mind till they were spoken.

I shall endeavour to prove, first, that Mrs. Barnston never did give her full and free consent to her daughter's marrying Mr. Meade; and, secondly, that even allowing Miss C. Barnston's account of the conversation, which she says passed between herself and Mr. Daubeney on the 28th of June, 1791, to be accurate, that conversation did not prevent the marriage. In proof of these propositions, I shall quote extracts from original letters and other authentic documents which I myself saw.

Mrs. Barnston, in a paper signed by herself, and dated June 10th, 1792, a few days after the trial, made the following declaration:—"Whereas my daughter Catherine
"has thought proper to swear in a public court that she
"refused to marry Mr. Meade in consequence of prejudice
"taken against him from a conversation with her brother,
"the Rev. Charles Daubeney, my son-in-law, in the

“ month of June last, 1791; and that previous to the said
“ conversation, she had obtained my full and free consent
“ to the connexion; and took some pains to convince the
“ court that I was ready and desirous of receiving Mr.
“ Meade into my family, and that the only objection to
“ the match taking place arose from the improper inter-
“ ference of my son-in-law; in consequence of which the
“ court determined, that the sum of 500*l.* together with
“ costs, should be paid to the same Thomas Meade, by
“ way of compensation for the delay of his intended mar-
“ riage:—I Mary Barnston, mother of the above Catherine,
“ do therefore hereby most solemnly declare, that had I
“ appeared in court, I must, in justice to my son-in-law,
“ as well as to myself, have given the following testimony
“ in direct contradiction to that of my daughter above-
“ mentioned. In the first place, I solemnly declare that
“ I never did see Mr. Meade in that light as to wish to
“ receive him in the character of a son-in-law; and that I
“ had at different times expressed my disapprobation of
“ such a thing before my daughter's return to England,
“ when the subject happened occasionally to be intro-
“ duced in conversation; having always had a great ob-
“ jection to an Irish connexion, and no partiality to Mr.
“ Meade. On my daughter's return to England, when
“ the matter was first mentioned to me in her presence,
“ I immediately expressed my strongest disapprobation of
“ it, before any thing had been mentioned relative to the
“ manner in which the business had been carried on, tell-
“ ing my daughter, that if I had thought it possible for
“ her to like an Irishman, and such a man as Mr. Meade,
“ I should certainly have written her a letter to have
“ guarded her against him. That the day after I told

“ Mrs. Gunning that I could not by any means consent
“ to Mr. Meade’s coming to the house; and that in a
“ few days after I told Mr. Meade himself, that I nei-
“ ther did, or ever should, approve of the business. That
“ my daughter did at different times press me on the
“ subject; but that I never did at any time, either directly
“ or indirectly, give my full and free consent to the busi-
“ ness; so far from it, that I told her over and over again
“ that she must do as she pleased, but that I never could
“ give my consent; that on her at length asking me whe-
“ ther, if she married Mr. Meade, I would receive him
“ as a son-in-law, my answer was, Certainly, my dear;
“ if you marry him, I must receive him: but this I con-
“ sidered as a matter of necessity, not of choice, my
“ daughter in this case giving me no option; and this my
“ daughter could not be ignorant of, having had the matter
“ fully explained to her. That my daughter in consequence
“ gave up Mr. Meade in July 1790, and the matter was
“ declared to be at an end; that she afterwards gave him
“ up a second time, in a more formal and decided man-
“ ner, in the month of January 1791, on her return from
“ Haddon, telling me that she had given him up for my
“ happiness. And that after such decided conduct, and so
“ many repeated declarations on the part of my daughter,
“ respecting having entirely given up Mr. Meade, I
“ could not conceive it possible that she meant to carry
“ on the affair, till Mr. Henry Sawbridge came commis-
“ sioned from my daughter, in the month of January last,
“ to inform me that she was determined at all events to
“ marry Mr. Meade. I do moreover solemnly declare,
“ that my objections to Mr. Meade had nothing to do
“ with his late wife’s will, upon which I never heard my

“ son-in-law give any decisive judgment, and upon which
“ I never formed any opinion, as my daughter has been
“ frequently told ; but that they were derived from Mr.
“ Meade’s conduct abroad, and to myself since his return,
“ Mr. Meade having solemnly promised me, on the word
“ of a gentleman and a Christian, with his hand on his
“ breast, that he never would carry the affair on, if it did
“ not meet with my full approbation; and after being told
“ by me that it neither did, nor ever would, meet with it,
“ at the same time when I had left the room, having per-
“ suaded my daughter to continue a correspondence with
“ him. I do moreover declare, in justice to the character
“ of my son-in-law, which I consider as having been
“ basely aspersed on this occasion, that so far from making
“ use of any influence to prejudice my judgment respect-
“ ing Mr. Meade, he desired me in the beginning of this
“ affair to pay no attention to the dispute between him
“ and Mr. Meade, but as a mother to judge what was
“ best for my daughter’s happiness. Such must have been
“ the evidence which I should have given upon oath, had
“ I appeared in court ; being fully convinced in my own
“ mind, that the verdict which has been obtained against
“ my son-in-law is founded upon the grossest misrep-
“ sentation of facts; and that my son-in-law has been
“ most grossly deceived, and most basely treated, both by
“ Mr. Meade and my daughter in this business.

(Signed)

“ MARY BARNSTON, sen.”

“ June 10th, 1792.”

The following is the copy of a letter written by Mrs. Barnston, to her brother Henry Sawbridge, esq; June 11th, 1792.

“ Dear Brother,

“ MY family is now brought to such a situation that I cannot pass it by unnoticed. My daughter’s conduct shocks me, and, I must think, surprises you. I hear she has sworn in court, she had my full and free consent; that had it not been for her brother, I should have received Mr. Meade most gladly. I told my daughter, in my last letter to her about three weeks ago, if God would enable me, I would have gone into court to have appeared against her, and had I been there, I should have declared this to have been the greatest falsehood. She never did at any time receive my consent—my objections have increased, the more I became acquainted with his conduct. I now think my daughter and Mr. Meade have acted a deceitful and base part; for when a sister goes into a court to swear downright falsehoods for the sake of injuring a brother, who I am convinced loved his sister but too well, to me nothing can be more shocking. Sorry am I to think the support which Kitty has received from some branches of your family, has helped to lead her on to the present dreadful extremity: of this I am the more convinced, when I hear your son Henry shook hands with her in the court when she had finished her evidence, when he must have known she had sworn falsely, as he cannot but remember his errand to me from my daughter in January last. That my daughter should, in spite of all entreaties, sacrifice the comfort of her family, and her own character, in the manner she has done, is so shocking to me, that

“ my only comfort now depends on driving the subject
“ from my mind. Thank God, I have some children
“ left, whose duty and affection will make me some amends
“ for the daughter I have lost. May you, dear brother,
“ never feel what I have felt, is the sincere prayer of your
“ affectionate and distressed sister,

“ M. BARNSTON.”

Mrs. Barnston holds the same language in a letter to Mr. Goddard, of which the following is a copy, dated the same day, June 11th, 1792.

“ Sir,

“ I DID not expect that a friend of Mr. Barnston,
“ and as I thought of myself, would have supported a
“ daughter of mine in opposition to her mother, and en-
“ couraged her to distress her family by exposing herself
“ in a public court. This is a subject, which distressed as
“ I am, I can say but little ; but in justice to myself, and
“ particularly to my son-in-law, who I shall ever think
“ has been most basely treated, I must say something.
“ My daughter took upon herself to swear she had recei-
“ ved my full and free consent, and took pains to convince
“ the court that I had no objections to her connection
“ with Mr. Meade : had I been in court, I should so-
“ lemnly have declared this to have been the greatest false-
“ hood. She never did at any time receive my consent ;
“ and my objections have more increased, the more I
“ became acquainted with Mr. Meade’s conduct. I now
“ think both Mr. Meade and my daughter have acted a
“ deceitful, dishonourable, and base part. I told my

“ daughter, in my last letter three weeks ago, if God
 “ would enable me, I would have gone into court to
 “ have appeared against my daughter; for when a sister
 “ goes into a court to swear downright falsehoods for the
 “ sake of injuring the character and fortune of a brother,
 “ the case must be bad indeed; to me nothing can be
 “ more shocking. You, Sir, having heard only my
 “ daughter’s story, and not choosing to hear any other,
 “ must be left to your own judgment. My mind is
 “ fixed. I approve of my son-in-law’s conduct, as much
 “ as I disapprove of my daughter’s. My daughter’s and
 “ Mr. Meade’s misrepresentation will never hurt him :
 “ As to myself, thank God, I have other children, whose
 “ duty and affection I can depend upon. Should Mrs.
 “ Goddard ever become a widow, I have only to hope
 “ she will never be treated as I have been.

“ I am, Sir, your obedient, humble servant,

“ MARY BARNSTON.

“ I beg you will send me no answer, as I wish to rid
 “ the subject from my mind.”

The above two letters to Mr. Sawbridge and Mr. God-
 dard were written, immediately after the trial, by Mrs.
 Barnston from Bath, before Mr. Daubeny returned from
 London.

Mrs. Barnston, in a letter, dated December 29, 1797,
 to Mr. Cohan, a friend of Mr. Meade’s, who endeavoured
 to effect a reconciliation, writes thus, as quoted by Mr.
 Meade, page 41, No. I. of his papers :—

her consent, but he insinuates that it was in consequence of her being prejudiced against him by Mr. Daubeney : upon this point Mr. Daubeney makes the following declaration :—" Soon after our return from the Continent " in 1790, and some days before Mr. Meade came to " Bath, I particularly desired Miss C. Barnston to tell her " own story to her mother, as being that degree of confidence which her mother had a right to expect from " her; and I expressly told her that I was unwilling her " mother should hear any thing upon the subject from " any other quarter. With this view I took the elder " sister with us into the country, and Miss C. Barnston " was left alone with her mother several days. Miss C. " Barnston however did not mention the subject to her " mother. Soon after our return, Mr. Meade arrived at " Bath; he came to breakfast one morning at Mrs. Barnston's, and upon taking his leave, Mrs. Barnston asked " him to come and dine. After he was gone, and when " all the family were at the table, I observed to Mrs. " Barnston that something had passed between Mr. Meade " and Miss C. Barnston abroad, but that the matter was " at an end. No particulars were mentioned to prejudice " Mrs. Barnston, but she immediately spoke to her daughter on the subject, in the manner expressed in her declaration. This was the first time that any thing was " said by me, or to my knowledge and belief, by any person, to Mrs. Barnston on the subject of Mr. Meade; and " Mrs. Barnston appeared to receive the idea relative to " any thing having passed between her daughter and Mr. " Meade as perfectly new to her mind. Mrs. Gunning " came the next morning, but I had said not a word " more to the mother on the subject."

Mrs. M. Barnston attests the truth of this declaration, as far as concerns her going into the country with Mr. and Mrs. Daubeny, leaving her sister alone with her mother, and the conversation which passed after their return.

In page 16 of the same paper, Mr. Meade, in speaking of Miss Barnston's desire to see him at her mother's house before he went to Ireland, in August 1790, after he had been rejected, says, "Mr. Daubeny used every possible means to prevent Mr. Meade's being received, but Miss Barnston, for the first time, opposed him with success: she told her mother that having given up her intentions of marrying, she had done full as much as she could ask of her; and if Mr. Meade was refused admittance into her house after that, she was resolved that she would go to him, and prepared to do so." An interview did take place between Mr. Meade and Miss C. Barnston at Mrs. Barnston's house, as mentioned in Mrs. Barnston's declaration. Mr. Daubeny denies that he made any objections to Mr. Meade being received; and the rest of the family recollect that nothing of this kind was urged by Mr. Daubeny. The only objection made was by Mrs. Barnston herself, who wished to prevent the interview, lest it should agitate her daughter too much. Miss Barnston was really prepared to go to Mr. Meade at the inn; and to prevent that impropriety, Mrs. Barnston consented that Mr. Meade should come to her house.

It only remains upon this head, that I add a passage from a letter of Mrs. Meade to her mother, dated in 1796, taken from page 3, No. II. of Mr. Meade's papers: "If I acknowledged that you once consented to my marrying Mr. Meade, and desired me to persuade Mr. Daubeny; do I really for this deserve to be publicly charged with

“the dreadful crime of perjury? That you forget it, I am persuaded. Why will you not have equal indulgence for me?” It is highly improbable that such consent, if ever given, should have been forgotten by Mrs. Barnston; it would naturally have been communicated to the relations and friends of the parties; but no evidence was produced on the trial, nor is any brought forward in Mr. Meade’s pamphlet or papers, to prove that such consent was ever given, or even supposed or understood to be given. Had such evidence existed, Mr. Meade would not have failed to produce it, as it would have been very material to his cause. Besides, if Mrs. Barnston did give her full and free consent, why did not the marriage take place? The former Mrs. Meade had been dead at least two years, when the consent is said to have been given; Miss Barnston was then more than thirty years old; her father was dead, and she was in possession of an independent and considerable fortune; and it is not even pretended that in the year 1790, there was any other impediment.

Upon this ground, and from the above accumulated testimony still remaining in the hand-writing of Mrs. Barnston, Mrs. Meade, and Mr. Meade, I cannot but conclude that Mrs. Barnston never did give her full and free consent that her daughter should marry Mr. Meade.

I now come to the other part of Miss Barnston’s evidence, in which she swore that certain words were spoken to her by Mr. Daubeney, on the 29th of June, 1791, and that those words caused her to determine not to marry Mr. Meade. This conversation is said to have passed between Mr. Daubeney and Miss Barnston only, no third person being present; and consequently it is impossible

to bring any direct proof that these words were not spoken; but it may be proved that the words, if spoken, did not produce the effect which Miss Barnston swore they did produce, namely, the prevention of her marriage with Mr. Meade.

The first proof of this is contained in the testimonies which have been already brought forward, for it has been shewn, that Miss Barnston declined marrying Mr. Meade in August, 1790, and again in January 1791, because her mother refused her consent; and consequently this conversation, which is said to have passed in June 1791, did not prevent the marriage.

The following extract from a letter of Miss Barnston to her sister Mrs. Daubeney, dated August 1791, proves that the suspicions about the will were subsequent to Miss Barnston's refusal of Mr. Meade, and consequently could not produce it: "I wished, you may be sure, to acquaint him of the suspicions so injurious to his character, and to have them cleared, as they were ruining him in every body's eyes, without his having an opportunity of defending himself. When I heard that he had been told of them, I was most anxious to acquaint him they did not come from my brother, and I determined to do so, and to make him send me his account of things. I got Henry Sawbridge to receive some letters for me on this subject; because I thought that as the matter was closed between my mother and I, she would not like to see letters coming from Mr. Meade."

That the conversation said to have passed on the 28th of June, 1791, did not injure Mr. Meade in Miss Barnston's opinion, and consequently did not prevent the marriage, is evident from the following passage of a letter

from Miss Barnston to her sister Mrs. Daubeney, dated October 25th, 1791: "I find, what every one else it seems finds also, that the sun at noon-day is not clearer than his innocence, his honour, and his integrity; and the more it is enquired into, the more it will appear—so you will excuse me in thinking him still, what I ever did think him, every thing I wish and desire in a husband."

How could Miss Barnston swear that the suspicions excited by Mr. Daubeney, concerning Mr. Meade's character, prevented her marrying him, when four months after the supposed conversation, she says, that she ever did think Mr. Meade every thing she wished in a husband? Is it possible for these two declarations to be reconciled? Or how could she swear, that after what had been said by Mr. Daubeney respecting the will, the matter had never been cleared up satisfactorily to her mind, and therefore Mr. Meade was given up by her; when she actually sent her cousin, Mr. H. Sawbridge, to Bath, in January 1792, to inform her mother, that she was determined at all events to marry Mr. Meade? This was noticed in Mrs. Barnston's declaration subsequent to the trial; and it is also mentioned, with other important circumstances, in the following paper signed by Mrs. Barnston and her eldest daughter Mrs. Mary Barnston, and attested by two witnesses, and sent to London from Bath, with the hope of its being useful to Mr. Daubeney upon the trial, but it did not arrive in time to be produced:

"MRS. Barnston affirms that Mr. Meade was considered as absolutely given up by Miss Barnston on her return from Haddon, long before these supposed conversations

“ between her and Mr. Daubeny took place; Miss Barnston
“ having positively assured her mother and friends to this
“ effect; as a confirmation of which, she burnt Mr. Meade’s
“ letter, in answer to the one she had written to him con-
“ taining her decided refusal; her mother saying to her upon
“ the occasion, after she had read to her Mr. Meade’s letter,
“ ‘ Now, my dear, the business is quite at an end, I would
“ ‘ advise you to put that letter behind the fire;’ to which
“ Miss Barnston replied, ‘ If you think so, Madam, with
“ ‘ all my heart :’ she immediately put the letter into the
“ fire. The whole family drew one uniform conclusion
“ from it, namely, that the affair in question was com-
“ pletely at an end. Mrs. Barnston had no idea to the
“ contrary, till Mr. H. Sawbridge came in the month of
“ January last to inform her from her daughter that she
“ was determined at all events to marry Mr. Meade.
“ Mrs. Barnston moreover says, that her objections to
“ Mr. Meade had nothing to do with the will business;
“ and that Mr. Meade was entirely, as she judged from
“ her daughter’s declaration, given up before the will
“ business was ever brought upon the carpet; and that
“ therefore Miss Barnston never was supposed to, nor could
“ she possibly, have given up Mr. Meade on account of
“ his character on the score of the will business, as she
“ pretends to say; but that after she had decidedly given
“ him up on another account, she made the story of the
“ will business an excuse for entering into a fresh corres-
“ pondence with him, and taking him up again; and
“ now lays the whole objection to Mr. Meade on that
“ score, which had nothing to do with the original
“ idea upon which Mr. Meade was given up. Now
“ thing therefore that has been said upon that subject has

“ weighed, Mrs. Barnston says, in her mind ; her opinion
“ of Mr. Meade being fully formed from his conduct
“ abroad, and to her since his return to England. She
“ likewise says that her opinion has been formed upon
“ her own deliberate judgment, Mr. Daubeny having, in
“ a conversation with her in the beginning of this affair,
“ expressly desired she would judge for herself, and to con-
“ sult the best for her daughter’s happiness, and not to
“ pay any attention to the difference between him and
“ Mr. Meade. And that she never heard, in the many
“ confidential conversations that have passed in the family
“ upon this unfortunate subject, any expression drop from
“ Mr. Daubeny, that tended to impress her with the idea
“ of Mr. Meade having been guilty of perjury, forgery,
“ or felony.

“ Mrs. Mary Barnston considered Mr. Meade as
“ absolutely given up, long before the conversations
“ alluded to took place; she confirms what Mrs.
“ Barnston has said respecting the Rev. H. Sawbridge’s
“ visit, for the purpose of declaring Miss Barnston’s
“ mind to her mother; she also says, that in the
“ many confidential conversations that have passed on
“ this subject, she never heard any expression from her
“ brother that tended to impress her with the least idea of
“ Mr. Meade’s having been guilty of perjury, forgery, or
“ felony. Each of the above evidences declares more-
“ over, that they never heard one syllable drop from Mr.
“ Daubeny, nor any hint given by him at any time,
“ which led to a suspicion of the credibility of the wit-
“ nesses to Mrs. Meade’s will; nor did they ever hear him
“ say or intimate that Mrs. Meade’s maid had been tam-
“ pered with, nor do they believe, from the manner in

“ which Mr. Daubeny has talked upon the subject, that
 “ any such idea was ever entertained by him.

(Signed) “ MARY BARNSTON, the mother.

“ MARY BARNSTON, jun.

“ Witness, THOMAS SIKES, Clerk,

“ JOHN POUND.”

Upon the same paper was the following declaration from Mrs. Ravenhill, sister to Mrs. Barnston:

“ MRS. Ravenhill affirms that the chief purport of the
 “ conversation that took place at her house, (in the summer of 1791) turned upon Mr. Daubeny's pressing Miss
 “ Barnston to determine with herself what she meant to
 “ do with respect to Mr. Meade, both for her own sake as
 “ well as her friends; but upon this head no satisfactory
 “ answer could be obtained from her. Mrs. Ravenhill
 “ has not the least recollection of any thing being said
 “ upon the subject of the will business at the time; and
 “ is very certain, that at no time she ever heard Mr.
 “ Daubeny say, or even intimate, that Mr. Meade was
 “ guilty of perjury, forgery, or felony, though she has
 “ had frequent conversations with him upon the subject;
 “ but that what chiefly passed between them at different
 “ times related to Mr. Meade's behaviour abroad and to
 “ Mrs. Barnston, and the inconsistent conduct of Miss
 “ C. Barnston.

(Signed) “ E. RAVENHILL.”

The above declarations of Mrs. Barnston, Mrs. Mary Barnston, and Mrs. Ravenhill, were drawn up at Bath, while Mr. Daubeny was in town.

Mrs. Barnston some weeks before the trial wrote to Miss Barnston thus : “ I am surpris’d you should bring
“ forward the will business to me again ; you know that
“ I never enter’d into it, or form’d an opinion upon it,
“ nor ever object’d to him on that account. My opi-
“ nion of Mr. Meade was form’d upon his conduct to
“ me, to your brother, and yourself ; this you have been
“ told over and over again, but choose to take no notice
“ of it, though you know you had given Mr. Meade up
“ long before the will was ever talk’d of.”

It is mention’d in Mr. Meade’s pamphlet, that Mrs. Barnston, at the time of the trial, was nearly eighty years old : she was in truth at that time in her seventy-second year, and in full possession of her faculties ; she continued to possess her faculties many years after, and indeed in the year 1797, Mr. Coham, as a friend of Mr. and Mrs. Meade, propos’d to wait upon Mrs. Barnston to endeavour to effect a reconciliation. Mrs. Meade herself made similar applications to near the time of Mrs. Barnston’s death in 1804. In answer to one of these applications, Mrs. Mary Barnston wrote thus, in 1796, to Mrs. Meade, speaking of her mother, she says, “ She knows she never
“ gave her full and free consent. The utmost she ever
“ said upon the subject was no more than this, that if
“ you chose to marry Mr. Meade, she certainly must re-
“ ceive him as her son-in-law ; that you were your own
“ mistress, and was to do as you pleas’d, but that she
“ never approv’d of the business. This was understood
“ by you at the time, as from circumstances can be pro-
“ ved ; and upon this ground Mr. Meade was given up.
“ Our mother knows she is neither govern’d by influence
“ or prejudice on this occasion, but by her own judgment

“ formed upon plain undeniable facts. She knows, and
“ you know, that so far from making you an *outcast*, she
“ was calling upon you repeatedly through me to return
“ to her house, and you refused so to do, till all the mis-
“ chief which your mother was endeavouring to prevent
“ was completed by your going into court against the
“ direct purport of the strongest letter she could write to
“ you on the occasion. What then, my mother says,
“ can be done? Can you expect that she will acknow-
“ ledge herself guilty to support your story? and that she
“ will allow herself to be a most unjust and cruel mother,
“ because her daughter has chose to represent her in that
“ light? You talk of appealing to dispassionate persons,
“ and that all to whom you appeal fully acquit you; as
“ according to your story you are the innocent party, it
“ is to be expected they should do so. But your mother
“ says, she has no occasion to appeal but to her own un-
“ derstanding for the judgment of facts which are within
“ her own knowledge. Tell your story a thousand times
“ over in your own way, facts will still remain the same;
“ and your mother says, while she has her senses, she will
“ never allow that to be true which she knows to be
“ false. You swore that your marriage was lost in con-
“ sequence of words supposed to be spoken by Mr. Dau-
“ beny: my mother knows this cannot be true, because
“ six months after these words were said to have been
“ spoken, Mr. H. Sawbridge came hither from you to
“ say you was determined to marry Mr. Meade; and Mr.
“ W. Sawbridge applied to Mr. Sikes at the same time,
“ to ask him to act as a trustee on the occasion. My
“ mother says, she sees this confirmed by your own
“ hand-writing, in a letter written some months after the

“ words are said to have been spoken, in which you say,
 “ that you would not have it said that you had given
 “ up Mr. Meade on account of his character and that
 “ he was every thing you wished or desired in a husband.
 “ With these and many other facts before her eyes, my
 “ mother is satisfied that the whole court business was
 “ founded upon falsehood: and she desires me to say,
 “ that when you represent yourself to be treated as an
 “ outcast, that if you are an outcast, you have made your-
 “ self so: and when you talk of unintended offences, she
 “ cannot see how such a term can be made use of by a
 “ daughter, who at the same time she was thus expressing
 “ herself in a letter, ‘ that if she deceived her mother, she
 “ ‘ wished the hypocrite’s portion might be her lot,’ was
 “ then actually deceiving her, by carrying on an affair
 “ which that mother was given to understand by her was
 “ given up; and afterwards persisted in going into a court
 “ against the express purport of that mother’s letter.”

The following is a copy of Mrs. Barnston’s letter, alluded to in the preceding; it is dated May 21st, 1792.

“ KITTY,

“ MY comfort, if I may judge from your late
 “ letters, seems to be quite out of your thoughts. I shall
 “ therefore say nothing more upon the subject. You must
 “ act as you please. You have said under your own hand,
 “ that if you deceived your mother, may the hypocrite’s
 “ portion be your lot; and the promise you made me
 “ remained in full force upon you: how your present
 “ conduct agrees with such words, I leave to your own
 “ conscience. May that conscience never rise up in

“ judgment against you! But as a mother, it is my duty
 “ to tell you plainly, that the badness of your conduct in
 “ revealing the confidence of your brother strikes me in
 “ a most shocking light; and such proceeding can never
 “ draw after it a mother’s blessing. I must tell you also,
 “ that if Mr. Meade begins with law, your brother will
 “ go on with it, and other persons in the family be brought
 “ forward; in which case your mother, if GOD enables
 “ her, must appear to give evidence against her daughter;
 “ she will not sit quiet, and see her son’s character seri-
 “ ficed to Mr. Meade. If you value your own character,
 “ you will consider these things; if not, I must rest satis-
 “ fied in having discharged the duty of

“ Your affectionate,

“ Though much-distressed mother,

“ M. BARNSTON.”

The following is a copy of Miss Barnston’s answer, and was the last letter she wrote to her mother before the trial:

“ My dearest Madam,

“ WAS I conscious of deserving the reproaches of the
 “ most cruel letter I ever yet received from your hands,
 “ my conscience would indeed rise up in judgment against
 “ me; but feeling the truth in my heart, that it has been
 “ adhering to the promise I made you that has brought
 “ me into all this difficulty, I cannot but feel your censure
 “ with the most extreme grief, but not with humiliation.
 “ I have never yet revoked the promise I made you, ex-
 “ cept with the view of preventing the present dreadful

“extremity. But as you think even this unjustifiable in
“me, I can do nothing else to prevent a man from redress-
“ing himself, when he thinks he has been highly injured.
“As to revealing the confidence of my brother, it may
“strike you, my dear Madam, in a shocking light. It
“is not the least of my injuries that every action of mine
“is so misrepresented to you, that I plainly perceive I
“have now, what I once thought I had not in the world,
“an enemy; who has robbed me of one of GOD’s choicest
“blessings, the opinion and confidence of a much-loved
“and justly-valued parent, robbed me by cruel insinu-
“ations and continual misrepresentation. If I had asked
“Mr. Daubeney, when he told me what his brothers said
“of Mr. Meade, whether I should tell it again, he would
“have said, Yes, with all his heart; for neither he, any
“more than myself, knew that any ill consequence could
“arise from it. Besides, he did not tell it to me as any
“secret; for he said, his brothers were writing to Mr.
“Meade himself, and that they had laid it all before Dr.
“Blayney and Mr. Coham, for they were determined to
“have it cleared up. When you wish me to consider
“my own character, do remember, my dearest Madam,
“that nothing can injure it so much as the reproach of
“such a mother as yourself. Happy am I to feel that I
“can vindicate myself from every reproach of your’s to
“an impartial person; but most unhappy am I to expe-
“rience that, from cruel perversion and obstruction, I
“am prevented from vindicating myself to you. I would
“do every thing that is possible to prevent this terrible
“trial. But, alas! your letter plainly discovers to me
“that you have put every thing out of my power. I can
“only say, therefore, that if Mr. Meade will go to law,

" and Mr. Daubeny will go on with it, your poor daugh-
 " ter must abide by the consequences; what they may
 " be, she cannot foresee: but let her sufferings here be
 " what they may, she trusts that innocent intentions, and
 " adherence to truth, will find her at last a peaceful man-
 " son, and unite her again to her dear mother, who now
 " seems to think her unworthy her blessing, and there-
 " fore must conclude her cast off by her heavenly Parent.
 " That GOD ALMIGHTY will turn your heart towards
 " me, shall be the constant prayer of your most affect-
 " ionate daughter,

C. BARNSTON."

The account given in the above letter of the conversation in June 1791, misled Mr. Daubeny, who, conscious that what did really pass would in no degree criminate him, did not expect that Miss Barnston would swear what she actually did swear in court.

The following extract from Mrs. Barnston's letter to Mr. Coham, in 1797, part of which letter has been already quoted, shews what she thought of her daughter's evidence five years after the trial: " My daughter swore
 " in court that the circumstance respecting the state of
 " the case having been sent to Dr. Blayney and Mr.
 " Coham was communicated to her by her brother; and
 " that he charged Mr. Meade with having forged the
 " will. Both these matters are most solemnly denied;
 " and no one in the family could imagine what the cir-
 " cumstances mentioned in the charge respecting Dr.
 " Blayney and Mr. Coham meant, till it was brought
 " forward in the court. Mr. Meade brought his action
 " to recover damages for the loss of his marriage. My
 " daughter swore such was the case. I have evidence

“ under my daughter’s own hand-writing, as well as from
 “ other circumstances, which authorise me to say, that what
 “ my daughter swore upon this subject was most certainly
 “ not true, and that she must know at the time. In short,
 “ the greatest and most important part of my daughter’s
 “ evidence in court, if I may judge from her own hand-
 “ writing, and many notorious circumstances, cannot be
 “ true. The effect of the trial therefore must be undone,
 “ and the characters that have been aspersed upon this
 “ occasion must be done justice to. Upon these condi-
 “ tions alone can my daughter ever be received in my
 “ family; and nothing she can say will ever alter my
 “ opinion upon this subject, because that opinion has been
 “ formed from facts, in which it is not possible for me
 “ to be deceived.”

The following letter from Miss Barnston to Mr. Daubeny seems a presumptive proof that no conversation of the nature described by Miss Barnston in her evidence did pass between her and Mr. Daubeny in June 1791; or if it did pass, this letter is a positive proof that it did not produce the effect she swore it did produce. It is dated September 1791, three months after the conversation is said to have passed.

“ My dear Brother,

“ I beg to inform you that I came from Aldenham on
 “ Saturday, expressly with the intention of declaring to
 “ you what I now give you under my hand-writing,
 “ that I was totally ignorant of Mr. Meade’s visit or in-
 “ tention to see me, which it seems he was determined to
 “ do, if possible; if not, to write to me. The next thing
 “ I beg to declare to you is, that no fresh promises or

“ engagements were the consequence of this meeting,
“ neither being asked by him, or offered by me. You
“ will perhaps as little believe this, as you did my word
“ the last time we had a meeting at our house; but this
“ I cannot help; it is sufficient for my own mind when I
“ declare to you what is true, and know it to be so. Alas!
“ it is but too true, that a very different conversation took
“ place between us when Hooker was out of hearing.
“ Mr. Meade told me that I have been the cause of de-
“ stroying his character. The will business, he said, was
“ nothing; a little time would set that to rights, because
“ facts could not be denied. Nor should he ever have
“ heard so much on that head, had not the weight of
“ your character crushed him, by expelling him first from
“ your family and ours in a manner he knew to be un-
“ merited. He called upon me often, he said, by every
“ open confession, to clear him in your eyes, and he says
“ I have done nothing but deceive him all along. I have
“ been the means of disuniting the very people who of all
“ others I was earnestly anxious to unite. And he says,
“ he knows it to be as much impossible for you to believe
“ him guilty respecting his wife, if you had not first
“ taken an unhappy turn against him with regard to me.
“ In short he told me, whatever future intentions I might
“ have towards him, he was afraid his friends would turn
“ their backs on him, if I did not give them up; for tho’
“ they were ready to lend their utmost support about the
“ will affair, they thought I had used him so ill, they
“ were indignant at seeing him still attached to me: and
“ though he will never marry any other woman, yet will
“ he never make any farther addresses to me, nor even
“ enter into my family, unless I will give him opportunity

“ of clearing himself from that load of infamy and dishonour which I have heaped upon him. He wished me to do this while he was in town; he could have waited on Mr. Sikes and you, but it must be to you alone that he would speak about me. Both Hooker and I told him he had better execute the main business first. In short, in his distracted state of mind, he let out every thing to Hooker, concluding that he knew all from me. As for myself, I am as wretched as need to be, or as I well can be, for one who feels conscious of no ill intention. I am losing the friendship of a brother and sister, who are dear to me as my life. I am forfeiting the esteem of a man, who has, as I have well tried, long since placed his whole happiness upon me; I have destroyed his character, and ruined his peace of mind. I am accused of deceiving my only parent, though I have done nothing, nor ever intended, but to sacrifice my happiness to hers. I am degraded among my sisters and brothers, nay, even in the eyes of my nephews and nieces, inasmuch that I cannot help confessing my visit here is attended with inexpressible mortification. Home is the most tranquil place, because my dearest mother believes me honest; and when I deceive her, may the hypocrite's portion be my lot. If because I have not chosen to declare to you all my intentions with the same confidence I used to do, you are to suspect me of every evil intention, and to make other people take it for granted; how can you answer it to yourself, my dear brother, to make me so wretched? If confidence unserved, confession, sorrow, and love, can bring you back to my afflicted heart, come to me, and restore me from a state of misery to happiness; but ask it not at the ex-

“ pence of sacrificing justice, gratitude, and everlasting
 “ affection to a man who I know to be worthy of your
 “ better opinion: for, as Mr. Meade says, though Charles
 “ may have had ever such objections to me, yet I know
 “ he does not think me guilty of forgery, perjury, or fraud;
 “ all that I desire is that he wishes to find me innocent;
 “ and I will take care to prove myself so. God forbid
 “ you should not wish to see him clear himself from all
 “ such charges, my dear brother; all that I entreat you is
 “ not to condemn him or prejudge him.”

The following extract from a letter of Mrs. Daubeny
 to Miss Barnston, in August 1791, not only proves that
 the suspicions about the will did not cause Miss Barnston
 to reject Mr. Meade; but it also shews that Mr. Daubeny
 had formed no decided opinion upon the subject. “ The
 “ will business, though occasionally mentioned, was never
 “ considered as the ground upon which he (Mr. Meade)
 “ was given up; nor would it have been reasonable it
 “ should, because it had never been proved; for whatever
 “ appearances may be, your brother will never prejudge
 “ any man. With respect to the will business, though
 “ we shall always consider it as totally unconnected with
 “ the present subject, your brother can have no objection
 “ to give you every satisfaction in his power. He con-
 “ siders himself in this case as a stander-by; all that he
 “ knows upon this business comes from his brothers; and
 “ he is at any time ready to give the matter the most im-
 “ partial investigation. If you choose to pitch upon any
 “ impartial person, who shall hear all you have to say for
 “ him on one side, and all that your brother has to pro-
 “ duce against him on the other; Mr. Daubeny will most
 “ gladly meet you upon those terms.

In September 1808, Mrs. Meade, at her own particular request, had by appointment an interview with her mother for the first time since the trial and her marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Daubeny, Mrs. Mary Barnston, and two Miss Masons' being present. What passed at this interview is very material; and the following account of it is taken from Mr. Daubeny's paper, and attested by Mrs. Mary Barnston and the Miss Masons'. Mrs. Barnston called Mrs. Meade "her lost child; said she forgave her, "and hoped God would forgive her, and open her eyes "to see her error, that she might return to peace." It was the intention of Mr. Daubeny and the family to confine this interview to the purpose for which it was requested, namely, Mrs. Meade's receiving her mother's forgiveness, and not to mention the subject of the trial; but after Mrs. Barnston had expressed her forgiveness in the words above-mentioned, Mrs. Meade sat down by Mr. Daubeny, and turning round to him said, "Well, "brother, now my mother has received me, why should "I not be received by the rest of the family?" Mr. Daubeny replied, "that there was no want of charity, of "affection, of feeling towards her; that he most heartily "forgave all the injury he had received from her; but that "justice must be done to the injured characters, before "she could be received into the family: that as the representative of her father he was bound to see Mrs. "Barnston's character cleared from the gross aspersions "cast upon it in Mr. Meade's pamphlet; and that he "owed it both to the Church and his family to have his "own character cleared from the charge which her perjury in court had fixed upon it in the world." This charge Mrs. Meade attempted to repel. Mr. Daubeny

then told her, that "his case and documents had been laid before two counsel, whose joint and decided determination was, that should he move for a new trial, the consequence would be, that he would most certainly recover the verdict, and Mrs. Meade as certainly go out of court a perjured woman." Mrs. Meade immediately asked, 'Why did you not then?' Mr. Daubeny replied, "because he had more feeling for the family than she had." Mr. Daubeny then told Mrs. Meade that all the papers and documents of every kind had been laid before the Bishop of Bath and Wells, previous to his entering upon the charge of Christ-Church; and after the Bishop's full and deliberate examination of them for a week, his judgment was, "that she was most certainly a perjured woman, if ever there was one; and that her mother could not, in justice to herself and family, receive her, till she had acknowledged her conduct, and made all amends in her power." Mr. Daubeny then proceeded to prove to her in what manner she had perjured herself. Mrs. Meade acknowledged, that in June 1791 she had totally given up Mr. Meade, and of course she could not deny that it was impossible that any expression used by him at that time should be the cause of her not marrying Mr. Meade, or that he (Mr. Daubeny) could say any thing with that intent: in this respect therefore she could not deny that she had sworn falsely. Mr. Daubeny next reminded her of her having sworn in court that she had her mother's full and free consent to marry; to this she could say nothing, her mother being at her elbow. Mrs. Meade acknowledged that she had some recollection of having confessed to Mr. Daubeny, at Mr. Sikes's at Hackney, in September 1791, that it was her

intention to marry Mr. Meade at her mother's death. Mr. Daubeney again reminded her of her having sworn in court, in the June following, that she had her mother's full and free consent to marry Mr. Meade, and that the expressions said to be used by him (Mr. Daubeney) prevented the marriage. Was not this, Mr. Daubeney said, to swear falsely? To this she made no answer. Mr. Daubeney then reminded her of Mr. H. Sawbridge being sent in January 1792, by her to Bath, to announce her intention, to her mother, of marrying Mr. Meade at all events; and of her having sworn in court, that words spoken in June 1791, were the cause of her not marrying Mr. Meade; and that in consequence of this false evidence a verdict was obtained. Upon this Mrs. Meade said, that Mr. Meade did not go into court for loss of marriage, but for defamation; "for," said she, "when I was asked that "indelicate question, whether I meant to marry Mr. Meade, I did not say I did not." Thus for the purpose of gaining Mr. Meade a verdict for defamation, Mrs. Meade acknowledged that she swore to an effect which was not produced; that is, she swore that the marriage was lost, at the very time she intended to marry; and she actually did marry Mr. Meade about ten days after, the carriage being ordered, and other preparations made at the time of the trial. The state of the case, according to Mrs. Meade's own representation, is therefore this: words spoken in a confidential conversation with her brother-in-law, at a time when all idea of her marrying Mr. Meade was understood to be at an end, she revealed to Mr. Meade, and afterwards, in order to give a criminal consequence to these words, she swore they produced an effect on her mind which they never had produced; and by this

breach of confidence, and by this false evidence, she procured Mr. Meade a verdict against her brother-in-law. Lastly, Mr. Daubeny in the most solemn manner declared that he never had uttered the words attributed to him; and Mrs. Meade confessed that her evidence was false, but would not acknowledge that she was a perjured woman, because she had no malicious intention against Mr. Daubeny: thus she considers false swearing and perjury as different things.

Mr. Daubeny sent an account of this interview to the different branches of the Barnston family in London, and the following answer shews their opinion not only of the interview, but also of Mr. Daubeny's conduct in general in this affair.

“ My dear Sir,

London, Sep. 14, 1803.

“ IT is now only two days since I had the pleasure of
 “ writing to you. On the present occasion therefore I
 “ am rather to be considered as the substitute of Mr.
 “ Snaith; though I think in a matter of so much interest
 “ to you and your friends, if I could not have used his
 “ pen as the vehicle of my own feelings in some degree,
 “ I should have been tempted to have troubled you again
 “ on my account. As it is, however, I have been re-
 “ quested in a manner which every way falls in with my
 “ own wishes, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter.
 “ It arrived just as Mr. Snaith was preparing to take wing
 “ for a few days flight to Cheltenham, or he would not
 “ have left the task of answering it to another. My aunt's
 “ letter having carried Mrs. Sikes to Mansion-house-street,
 “ to meet your dispatch, (for which she was not a little
 “ anxious) just about the time I called there, the whole

“ family had an opportunity of joining in one general
“ expression of their feelings on the occasion; with some
“ indignation at the manner in which it was brought
“ about, they all congratulate you on the result of the
“ interview. With you they greatly desired that Mrs.
“ Barnston might *personally* forgive her offending daughter,
“ before she was taken from her for ever; but they
“ trembled for the immediate effect of such a meeting
“ upon the good old lady. They cannot therefore dis-
“ semble their satisfaction that it is all well over, nor
“ that it has in its conduct and close so greatly strengthened
“ the cause of truth and justice. Your friends here
“ have long been too intimately acquainted with all the
“ circumstances of this cruel schism to require on their
“ own account any fresh documents on the subject; at
“ the same time they rejoice at the accession of evidence,
“ so important to the conviction of others, as is furnished
“ by the confessions, positive and negative, of one whom
“ they lament to think should have been made the instrument
“ of gratifying the worst dispositions of another;
“ and feeling, as they do, the extent of your forbearance,
“ they think it due from them to assure you, that they
“ will not omit any proper opportunity of employing these
“ powerful documents to do you that justice in private,
“ which family considerations withhold you from seeking
“ in a more public way; and which they can never enough
“ regret, that there appears from the issue of this interview
“ there is no hope of ever being done to you in a manner
“ which might heal the breaches of a divided family.
“ Mr. Snaith desired me to say, that he would endeavour
“ to take Bath in his return from Cheltenham; and that
“ he might have the pleasure of meeting you there, would

“I have been told that you have been since this re-
 “surrection. I have been told that you have been
 “at that location, or from the same place, since
 “as long as the resurrection. With kind regards to all,
 “I remain, dear friends,

“Dear friends, your friends,

“JOHN WATSON.”

“I have been told that you have been since this re-
 “surrection. I have been told that you have been
 “at that location, or from the same place, since
 “as long as the resurrection. With kind regards to all,
 “I remain, dear friends,

“Dear friends,

“I have been told that you have been since this re-
 “surrection. I have been told that you have been
 “at that location, or from the same place, since
 “as long as the resurrection. With kind regards to all,
 “I remain, dear friends,

“The above confession, and the witnesses which have
 “been produced from original letters and other authentic
 “documents, have a place beyond a possibility of doubt
 “that Mrs. Watson never did give her full and free con-
 “sent to the marriage of her daughter with Mr. Meade;

and that the words spoken by Mr. Daubený on the 28th of June 1791, supposing them to have been spoken, did not produce the effect which Miss Barnston swore they did produce. There is also as strong reason as the nature of the case admits, for thinking that Mr. Daubený did not utter the words imputed to him by Miss Barnston. They are not quoted or mentioned in any of Miss Barnston's letters to Mr. Daubený, or her other relations, subsequent to June 1791; and in these letters there are some expressions scarcely compatible with this supposed conversation. No other witness was called to prove that Mr. Daubený ever held any such language; and evidence has been produced to shew that he held a different language in the family. Nor is Miss Barnston's assertion upon this subject supported by any circumstantial or collateral testimony; and it is, I believe, a rule in evidence, founded in reason and acknowledged in our courts, that where a witness is convicted of swearing falsely in one instance, his or her testimony deserves no credit, or at least is not admitted as proof upon any other point. It is highly improbable that Mr. Daubený should say any thing to Miss Barnston for the purpose of preventing her marriage with Mr. Meade, when he knew that Mr. Meade had been twice refused by her, and at a time when it was generally understood in the family that the affair was entirely at an end.

The following is Mr. Daubený's account of the conversation which passed between himself and Miss Barnston in June 1791: he states that it was occasioned by the different language which it was found Mr. Meade held to the eldest Mr. Daubený before he left England, and to Mr. Charles Daubený, on his arrival at Spa, upon the subject of his late wife's will: Miss Barnston having been present

when the conversation passed at Spa, Mr. C. Daubeny was desirous of confirming his account of what Mr. Meade then said by her testimony, and with this view he read to Miss Barnston his minutes of the conversation, which were to this effect: " Mr. Meade enlarged much on the cruelty of my brothers' reception of him; that they charged his wife with having made an unjust will, and that he had a hand in it. He said, moreover, that Mary made such a will, because she was confident that he (Mr. Meade) would make the same disposal of her property as she herself would wish. With that idea she left it as she did, in his hands, that it might be (a lien) a kind of bond or means of keeping up his connexion in the family; as she hoped he would always be considered as a brother in her family; that he had made his will and erased my brother John's name as executor, (on account of what he (Mr. Meade) represented to be his unkind treatment of him) and had put mine in; and that my brothers would have no reason to be dissatisfied, or something to the same purpose. He said, moreover, that Mrs. Meade had done something very handsome by his brother, though he did not say what." Miss Barnston declared the above, to the best of her recollection, to be the substance of what Mr. Meade had said at Spa. Mr. Daubeny then asked her accidentally, without any previous intention, whether she knew any thing about his sister's making her will, or had seen the signature of it; and happening to have the fac simile of it in his pocket-book, (which Mr. J. Daubeny had sent not only to Mr. Daubeny, but also to Mr. Meade, with a view to a private explanation) he shewed it to her, and asked her what she thought of it; her answer was, " God knows." Not a word

move passed on either side on the subject of the will. Miss C. Barnston was at this time sitting down with me at the table. She now got up, and walked up and down the room. I proposed her accompanying us to Tunbridge, to which she seemed indifferent. She seemed to have something on her mind. After a turn or two, she said, "Brother, I was in hopes you could at least have been so far reconciled to Mr. Meade as to have kept up appearances with him." To which my answer was, "Kit, you know my character too well, not to know, that I can never keep up appearances, where there is no reality. After what has passed abroad, I never can see Mr. Meade in the light of an honest man." Mr. Daubeny is ready to swear that this was the substance of the conversation, and the whole of what passed relative to his sister's will upon that occasion; and that neither then, or at any other time, he used the expressions attributed to him by Miss Barnston in her evidence upon the trial.

I cannot but remark that Mr. Meade's papers are drawn up with the most consummate address, and in a manner peculiarly calculated to impose upon the reader: assertions are rarely supported by any authentic documents, dates are seldom mentioned, and occurrences which happened at different times are placed together; the main question is kept very much out of sight; collateral and irrelevant circumstances are dwelt upon with minuteness and earnestness; much declamation is used, and the feelings are frequently appealed to, where the judgment only ought to be exercised. It is therefore not matter of surprise that some of those who have read Mr. Meade's papers only, have formed an opinion favourable to his cause.

I think it right to quote two or three passages which appear to me to mark a want of that correctness of principle which can alone produce uniform right conduct. It is acknowledged that Mr. Meade and Miss Barnston carried on a clandestine correspondence upon the subject of marriage, in direct violation of a most solemn promise made by both of them to Mr. Daubeney. Mr. Meade endeavours to justify this, in the following manner in No. I. page 9, of his papers, "Although upon his (Mr. Daubeney's) observing her (Miss Barnston's) inclinations to Mr. Meade, he had obtained a promise that she would yield them to his; yet when she found that such a compliment to friendship might give a wound to her own happiness, she might, by telling Mr. Daubeney so, have deprived him of those pretences and advantages which in the sequel he so successfully urged against her. But invincible reasons prevented this. For she was persuaded, from his general violence in the affair, (and his conduct ever since justified that persuasion) that unhappiness would be the consequence of her explaining herself abroad; and she flattered herself it might be avoided if she waited till she returned home. If prudence or necessity forced her to reserve, it was not, as Mr. Daubeney suggests, from hypocrisy. She was unreserved enough in declaring her sentiments to her mother and all her friends; and she often and sincerely lamented the necessity of being reserved with Mr. Daubeney abroad; but she owed him no duties, nor was any breach of hospitality committed, for the party were all equal, men and women, brothers and sisters, united to travel at a joint expence." Thus Mr. Meade calls a violation of promise, reserve; and he and Miss Barnston

satisfied themselves that it was allowable, because Miss Barnston was not dependant upon Mr. Daubeny, and because they were all travelling at a joint expence. Hence it appears that they began with practising deceit, which was certainly not necessary, for Miss Barnston, as soon as the mutual attachment had taken place, had only to tell Mr. Daubeny of it, and to write to her mother for her consent; and Mr. Daubeny would probably have desired Mr. Meade to leave the party till Mrs. Barnston's wishes were known, as he had reason to think that the connection would not be agreeable to her. Indeed Mr. and Mrs. Daubeny both repeatedly urged Miss Barnston to write to her mother upon the subject; but she refused, upon the ground that there was no attachment between her and Mr. Meade; and she expressly said, "Why should I make my mother uneasy about nothing?" In speaking upon the same subject, Mr. Meade says, page 34, "If Miss Barnston or Mr. Meade repented or wished to recall such expressions, what injury did they do, or propose to any one living?" Here violation of promise is called recalling expressions, though in fact not a syllable was said to Mr. Daubeny, to whom the promise was made: nor did Miss Barnston write to her mother, although the affair was carried on all the time the party continued abroad; and surely this could proceed from no other cause but a belief that the connexion would not be agreeable to her mother. This deceit, and this sophistical mode of justifying it, seem to have led to a disregard for truth in Mrs. Meade, which is acknowledged in a letter written in answer to one she had received from her mother, accusing her of having given evidence in court in direct contradiction to her hand-writing and repeated language in her

family: the letter is dated July 1800, and the passage is as follows: "That my oath differed from some particular letters and expressions of mine must of necessity have been the case, because upon my oath rigid truth was to be my guide, and I could not presume upon reserves or concealments, however benevolent the intention."

How then does the matter stand according to Mrs. Meade's own confession? Soon after her return from the Continent, she confessed that she practised deceit, in carrying on a clandestine correspondence contrary to her promise: in 1800, she denies having given false evidence in court, by acknowledging that she had not made truth her guide in her letters and expressions; and in 1803, upon being pressed by Mr. Daubeny, she confessed before four other persons, all living and ready to attest it, two of whom are her sisters, that she had been guilty of false-swearing at the trial. The progress seems to have been a natural one, from deceit to untruth, from untruth to false-swearing. Upon the last occasion she distinguished between false-swearing and perjury; but morality and religion know no such distinction. And indeed throughout this business I think I observe both in Mr. and Mrs. Meade, and especially in the latter, a great propensity to self-deception. Let them now reflect and examine themselves. Let them take a calm and dispassionate review of their whole conduct, as far as concerns the business in question, from the time of their meeting at Spa, to the present moment. Let them not rely on the decision of a fallible human tribunal, but remember that they must hereafter appear before the tribunal of an infallible Judge. Let them ask themselves, whether they have invariably adhered to the

indispensable laws of honour, justice, and truth. And in particular, let Mrs. Meade, after considering her evidence in court, ask herself the following questions, Did my mother ever give me her full and free consent to marry Mr. Meade? Was my marriage with him really prevented by Mr. Daubeny's conversation with me on the 28th of June? Did Mr. Daubeny really use the expressions I attributed to him? These are plain questions, and let the answers to them be plain and simple, without evasion or casuistry. With the documents I have had before me, I conceive it impossible that Mrs. Meade can conscientiously answer these questions in the affirmative; but at the same time, I am fully aware that it requires great firmness of mind to make an explicit confession in a case like this: that firmness can be derived from this consideration only, that however humiliating confession may be thought in this world, it will certainly be profitable in the next. Let Mr. and Mrs. Meade consider that they have done their utmost to deprive Mr. Daubeny of his character, they ought therefore to do their utmost to restore it in the public opinion. Mr. Daubeny forgives them upon Christian principles; but while they persist in asserting false evidence to be true, to the injury of his character, neither morality nor religion requires that he or his immediate connexions should live with them upon terms of friendship; this would be a sort of acknowledgement of the truth of their statement. Mr. and Mrs. Meade press for oblivion and reconciliation; it is obviously the interest of the offending party to do so. But this case is not like a common quarrel or disagreement in families where both parties may be to blame, yet both equally free from

every thing which can be called criminal. Here one of the parties must be guilty, and justice should first be done to the innocent, and reparation made the foundation of reconciliation.

I think it due to Mr. Daubeny to add, that after a most attentive investigation of the several charges brought against him by Mr. and Mrs. Meade, I am perfectly satisfied that he has in every respect acted with the strictest propriety, and as a man of honour; and I think that the motives which induced him to submit to the verdict, although he was assured by his counsel that it might be set aside by a new trial, deserve particular approbation.

G. LINCOLN.

DEANERY-HOUSE, ST. PAUL'S,

May 13th, 1805.

(G.)

*Correspondence between the Bishop of LINCOLN
and Mr. MEADE.*

HIS Lordship has already quoted his first letter, when he applied to the Rev. Dr. Randolph for Mr. Meade's papers. Dr. Randolph, in consequence of that application, wished Mr. Meade to convey to his Lordship such papers as he thought might satisfy his mind; and Mr. Meade accordingly sent such as he conceived must answer the purpose; accompanying them with the following letter:

“ To the BISHOP of LINCOLN.

“ Chatleigh, March 25, 1805.

“ DR. Randolph has communicated to Mr. Meade
“ the Bishop of Lincoln's letter, and requested him to
“ send to his Lordship his papers relative to his un-
“ happy dispute with Mr. Daubeney. Mr. Meade will
“ with pleasure comply with the Bishop's wishes; for, as
“ he never obtrudes his papers on any one, so he never
“ refuses them when there is a liberal and candid motive
“ of enquiry.

“ As for himself and his family, he has no interest; he
“ has nothing to gain by any decisions in his favour.

“ And supported by the judgment of his country, by the
 “ testimony of his own conscience, and by the esteem of
 “ those who know him and his cause, he has nothing to
 “ fear from enquiry, and nothing to wish for but peace.

“ Mr. Meade laments the restlessness and activity with
 “ which Mr. Daubeney obtrudes a private quarrel of twelve
 “ years standing on such utter strangers to all the parties
 “ as the Bishop of Lincoln appears to be; but he feels
 “ little solicitude from any impression which *ex parte*
 “ statements may have made on his Lordship’s mind.
 “ If such has been the case, he persuades himself that it
 “ will be of short duration.

“ Mr. Meade will only add, that if there be any point
 “ on which his Lordship desires farther explanation, he
 “ will be happy to give it; confident that any reflections
 “ which the Bishop may have heard on the characters of
 “ Mr. and Mrs. Meade, will appear to be the fabrications
 “ of an inveterate enemy; and that his Lordship will
 “ have to declare, as the* Bishop of Durham has done
 “ on two points which Mr. Daubeney has lately asserted
 “ to him on this subject, that they were inventions of his
 “ own without any foundation in truth.

“ T. M.”

* The reader will have seen (Appendix, letter D.) that Mr. Meade had the best authority for this assertion. Mr. Meade may even add to what is there said, that that very respectable gentleman whom his Lordship employed as his friend on this occasion, assured Mr. Meade, “ That the Bishop of Durham had not only discovered the stories he had heard from Mr. Daubeney to be absolutely without foundation, but that his Lordship would certainly declare it wherever his name might have been used; and that it would be injustice to his Lordship’s character to suppose that he would not do so.” The lady to whom the Bishop of Durham applied, gave Mr. Meade assurances equally strong of his Lordship’s conviction.

In about seven weeks the Bishop sent to Mr. Meade a manuscript book, and with it a letter.

“ Sir, Deanery, St. Paul’s, May 13, 1805.

“ I am sorry that my engagements in town have not
 “ allowed me to send you the enclosed papers sooner. I
 “ was not without hope, when I entered into an examina-
 “ tion of a subject upon which opinions were so much
 “ divided, that it might be possible to form a judgment
 “ which would vindicate the characters of both the parties
 “ from all material blame. Believe me, sir, I most sin-
 “ cerely lament that I have been disappointed in this
 “ hope. But should the plain statement of facts, upon
 “ which I can form but one opinion, lead you and Mrs.
 “ Meade to see the subject in a different point of view
 “ from that in which you seem hitherto to have con-
 “ sidered it, and produce a reconciliation which would
 “ be honourable to both parties, I shall feel truly happy
 “ in having contributed in any degree to so desirable an
 “ event.

“ I am, sir, your obedient servant,

“ G. LINCOLN.”

“ P.S. I ought perhaps to have observed, that none of
 “ the evidence contained in the enclosed papers was pro-
 “ duced in court upon the trial.”

On hastily running over his Lordship’s manuscript, Mr. Meade had not such composure of spirits as he would wish to possess in repelling an attack that required mature thinking, and the advice of friends. His first letter to

the Bishop was of little importance, and the reader shall not be troubled with it. He observed in it, "that he could say little more than that he had received the paper, and that there was error in all the reasoning."

In a few weeks he wrote the following letter* to his Lordship, to propose a personal meeting.

"My Lord,

June 19th, 1805.

"IN my letter to your Lordship, after I had hardly run over the manuscript you sent me, I mentioned that I should probably state to you some facts which I thought might change the sentiments you expressed in that manuscript. I am now in town, and shall be ready to wait on you for the purpose, if you choose it. When your wishes to see papers of mine were conveyed to me, it did not occur to my mind that you had any intentions but of endeavouring to effect peace in a divided family, and my chief object was to convey to you a detail of what had been done for that purpose, together with a view of the influence which seemed to have prevented it. In my papers themselves I protested against re-trying, without jury, witnesses, oath, or restraint, a cause which had been decided already; and as you appeared to wish to have the papers during the few days you were at Lymington, I sent them without delay, in confidence that they were going to a Bishop;

* Mr. Meade's letters being very long, and often repetitions of what has appeared in the preceding pamphlet, to spare the reader he has given only extracts, which he has done faithfully, to the best of his judgment. Mr. Meade's original letters are in the Bishop's hands; the drafts for them in Mr. Meade's, where those concerned may see them. The Bishop's letters are given verbatim,

“ and to an arbitrator* of peace, who might have farther
 “ communication with me. But finding that you have
 “ taken up an opinion very different from my expectations,
 “ and I believe on very mistaken ground, I am advised
 “ by my friends to point out to you those mistakes into
 “ which we conceive you have fallen; and which in every
 “ essential matter are obvious. You will be somewhat
 “ surprized to see that even the direct assertion respecting
 “ the late Bishop of Bath and Wells, is directly contra-
 “ dicted by his son Dr. Moss, in his letter to me in Ja-
 “ nuary 1799. You will be convinced that the account
 “ Mrs. Tomline gave to a lady at Bath, of Mrs. Meade’s
 “ wedding-day being fixed previous to the trial, is utterly
 “ unfounded. You will find also that a similar story which

* Mr. Meade at this time heard that the Bishop endeavoured to
 vindicate his conduct, as under the character of “ an Arbitrator,”
 although it was clear to common sense that Mr. Meade had never
 constituted him as such ; nor did his Lordship express such an
 idea previous to his getting Mr. Meade’s papers; nor did Mr.
 Meade ever apply to him at all. Mr. Meade used the above expres-
 sion, to meet the Bishop on his own ground. But what most surprized
 him was, that at this time he received letters from Mr. Daubeny
 which carried with them an appearance of the Bishop (although
 under the assumed character of an arbitrator) having privately com-
 municated to Mr. Daubeny some of Mr. Meade’s papers, or their
 contents, on points which did not enter into his Lordship’s judgment,
 and which he had not even touched upon; for Mr. Daubeny de-
 manded of Mr. Meade in those letters “ *the charges* which the latter
 “ had laid before the Bishop of Lincoln respecting the wills of Mr.
 “ and Mrs. Barnston, and threatening in case of refusal to apply to
 “ the Bishop for them.” To which Mr. Meade replied, “ that the
 “ Bishop of Lincoln did not communicate to him any of those
 “ papers which Mr. Daubeny had requested his Lordship to read ;
 “ and he presumed that the Bishop, as an honest man, did not com-
 “ municate to Mr. Daubeny those papers which his Lordship had
 “ requested from Mr. Meade.”

“ she related to the same lady at Bath, ‘ of a carriage
 “ ‘ being bespoke before the trial,’ is equally without
 “ foundation.

“ I beg to say, that I mean nothing disrespectful to
 “ your Lordship; but you will give me leave to observe
 “ an error into which you have yourself fallen, when
 “ quoting from a paper of mine, you describe me as
 “ ‘ justifying the violation of promises, because Mr. Dau-
 “ ‘ beny and I travelled at a joint expence.’ I have now
 “ the paper before me from which you quote, and I ven-
 “ ture to say that you must be as ready to correct your
 “ error, as I am to mark it.

“ I have the honour to be, &c.

“ These are only a few of the errors in your paper.”

To this the Bishop of Lincoln replied as follows:

“ Sir, Buckden Palace, June 24, 1805.

“ YOUR letter, dated June 19th, and directed to the
 “ Deanery, St. Paul’s, in which you desire to see me, has
 “ been forwarded to me at this place. If I had been in
 “ town, I should have been ready to hear from yourself
 “ any thing which you might have wished to state to me;
 “ but as I do not expect to be there for several months,*

* The Bishop appears to have lost the opportunity of correcting his mistakes, by falling into that error which misled others; as Mrs. Barnston, Mrs. M. Barnston, &c. who, after hearing volumes of calumny against Mrs. Meade, were seduced into a persuasion that they ought never to see her. The reason for which was plain enough; “ truth would have come out, and fallacy would have been exposed.” Even their letters usually contained a command, “ that no answer should be given.” But how came the Bishop of Lincoln to run into such a trap? When he stepped forward, *uncalled*

“ I must beg leave to trouble you in writing with a few
 “ observations upon the contents of your last letter, and
 “ also of that which I received from you, dated May 18.
 “ It certainly would have been a source of great satisfac-
 “ tion to me if I could have been the means of restoring
 “ peace in a divided family; and with that view I took
 “ the liberty of stating without reserve where the blame
 “ appeared to me to lie, and of calling upon the offending
 “ party, in the most solemn manner I could, to make that
 “ sort of acknowledgment which I thought most likely to
 “ lead to this very desirable object. Be assured, sir, that
 “ what I said upon this point proceeded from no unkind
 “ motive towards you and Mrs. Meade, but from a real
 “ regard to your most substantial and lasting interests. If I
 “ had not looked beyond this world; if I had not thought
 “ that the sacred laws of religion and morality had been
 “ violated; I should most certainly not have used the
 “ strong expressions which I did.

“ I have read both your letters with all the attention in
 “ my power, and I must take the liberty of saying that
 “ they do not contain a single circumstance tending to
 “ invalidate the conclusions, which I have drawn. In
 “ drawing these conclusions, I have not rested upon the
 “ assertion of Mr. Daubeny, or of any other person; I
 “ have in every instance quoted my authorities, and you
 “ have not even attempted to shew that my inferences are

for, to reverse a judgment of law, and to overthrow characters, was it not his duty to see and hear both sides? Was he not bound by every law which should govern men, at least to restrain the impatience and publication of his attack, until he could see that party who had assured him that in every page of his paper there were impositions and error? But a snare seems to have been laid, and his Lordship ran into it!

“ unjust. Granting every thing which you mention to
 “ be correct and accurate, my authorities and conclusions
 “ will remain unaffected. The evidence which I have
 “ produced was not before the court at the trial; if it had,
 “ I am persuaded that the sentence would have been dif-
 “ ferent. If the Bishop of Bath and Wells did not pro-
 “ nounce Mrs. Meade perjured, he gave an unequivocal
 “ proof of his being satisfied with respect to Mr. Dau-
 “ beny, by licensing him to the Free-Church at Bath,
 “ after a full investigation of the case between you and
 “ Mr. Daubeny; and I have Dr. Moss’s authority to say,
 “ that his father did express the most complete satisfac-
 “ tion with respect to Mr. Daubeny’s character. The late
 “ Archbishop of Canterbury, who was consulted as being
 “ a subscriber to the Free-Church, gave his full consent
 “ and approbation to Mr. Daubeny’s appointment to the
 “ Free-Church. The present Bishop of Salisbury, in
 “ whose diocese Mr. Daubeny has a living, has lately
 “ given a strong proof of his good opinion of him.* The
 “ Bishop of Durham, in two letters which I have received
 “ from him since I left town, says, ‘ With the cha-
 “ racter of Mr. Charles Daubeny I am well acquainted;

* Mr. Meade leaves it to the common sense of every reader to estimate this mode of reasoning. If he had thought proper to rest on such arguments, he too might have quoted authorities; perhaps he might have ventured to name every person, without exception, who has heard his statement. He is not without the authority of venerable bishops to oppose to his Lordship; the late Bishop of Oxford wrote to him that the case was so clear, that he thought Mr. Meade gave himself unnecessary trouble to write on it at all. Mr. Meade has the original; and he relates the circumstance only because he would meet the Bishop of Lincoln on every ground, even when his Lordship adopts authorities in the place of reason and proof.

“ ‘ and have always understood, from those who know
“ ‘ him best, that his character is not only above the reach
“ ‘ of censure, but even of suspicion.’ ‘ Of Mr. Daubeny’s
“ ‘ merits I have already written in a language, with which
“ ‘ the warmest of his friends must be satisfied. That I
“ ‘ mistook what fell from him in conversation respecting
“ ‘ Dr. Blayney’s letter, I readily admit; and that in
“ ‘ consequence I made use of terms to his disadvantage.
“ ‘ As soon as I discovered my mistake, I endeavoured,
“ ‘ and continue endeavouring, to seize every opportunity
“ ‘ of doing him ample justice. You have my free leave
“ ‘ to give every degree of publicity to this declaration
“ ‘ which you may judge expedient.’

“ Mr. Daubeny’s conduct upon the continent might
“ have been exactly what you state it to have been, and
“ yet it would not justify a breach of promise in you and
“ Mrs. Meade; much less would it affect the questions,
“ whether Mrs. Barnston gave her consent to her daughter’s
“ marriage, or whether the words said to have been spoken
“ by Mr. Daubeny prevented the marriage. I by no
“ means controvert any thing you say respecting Mrs.
“ Meade’s conduct subsequent to the trial, or the degree
“ of estimation in which her character is held by her ac-
“ quaintance, or in the neighbourhood in which she lives.
“ Whether the wedding-day was or was not fixed before
“ the trial, or whether the carriage was or was not or-
“ dered; it is certain that Mrs. Meade, in January 1792,
“ announced to her mother her intention of marrying,
“ and that she actually did marry ten days* after the trial.

* She neither did announce her intention of marrying, as stated by the Bishop, nor did she actually marry ten days after the trial.

“ Mrs. Tomline desires me to refer you to Miss MacLaine
 “ for a more correct statement of what she said to her in
 “ *private conversation* as the friend of her sister, who
 “ alone was present. Mrs. Tomline recollects having
 “ said to Miss MacLaine, ‘ she understood the marriage of
 “ ‘ Mrs. Meade was determined upon before the trial,
 “ ‘ (not that the day was fixed;) and that even the cer-
 “ ‘ riage had been previously ordered:’ but she is equally
 “ confident that she ‘added at the same time that ‘ these
 “ ‘ circumstances then rested upon Mr. Daubeny’s au-
 “ ‘ thority; that it was the Bishop’s intention to apply
 “ ‘ to Mr. Meade for his papers; that his opinion would
 “ ‘ be founded wholly upon indisputable evidence; and
 “ ‘ that till both sides of the question had been examined,
 “ ‘ it was impossible to form a decided opinion with re-
 “ ‘ spect to assertions.’† Mrs. Tomline desires me to say
 “ further, that from that time to the present hour she has
 “ never mentioned any of the circumstances, or given
 “ any opinion upon the subject, except to her sister; con-
 “ sidering it as improper in her, to say any thing upon
 “ the subject, till I had sent my opinion to you and Mr.
 “ Daubeny, and she has never since been in company
 “ where it has been mentioned. We both however beg
 “ to be understood as thinking ourselves at liberty to ex-
 “ press our conviction, whenever we see proper occasion;
 “ that Mr. Daubeny’s character is fully vindicated from
 “ every charge brought against him in consequence of
 “ this unhappy affair; but in doing this, we shall studi-

† Admitting this statement to be correct, it would then appear
 that these unfounded stories were first to be circulated by the Bishop’s
 family, to poison the minds of Mr. Meade’s friends; and *afterwards*
 the Bishop was to enquire into their truth as an arbitrator!!!

“ oufly avoid, as far as may be, all discussion of Mrs.
 “ Meade’s conduct.

“ I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

“ G. LINCOLN.”

Mr. Meade in reply wrote two letters, from which the following are extracts.

Mr. MEADE to the Bishop of LINCOLN.

“ My Lord,

June 29, 1805.

“ AS your letter proves nothing in reply to mine, I
 “ beg to tell you so, that you may not misconstrue my
 “ silence. And your Lordship having voluntarily entered
 “ on this business, I will not trouble you with apologies
 “ for another letter, though it may be a long one. Your
 “ persuasion that you have fully vindicated Mr. Daubeny;
 “ is a subject on which it is needless to express my opi-
 “ nion, because it is of little concern to me. The asser-
 “ tion is no doubt a singular one from a private person,
 “ who sought out and listened to one party, and did not
 “ see the other; although Mrs. Tomline assured a lady in
 “ Bath of your impartiality, and that you were deter-
 “ mined not to listen to parties or to partisans. It is the
 “ attack on my wife that alone concerns me; it is, as
 “ your Lordship expresses it, “ *your endeavours*” to
 “ prove, that she is a person of lost character, that may be
 “ worth my notice. It is the application to her of such
 “ expressions, as, ‘ convicted of false-swearing, and
 “ ‘ being thereby lost to all credit,’ that may induce my
 “ attention, or that of her friends and relatives. And
 “ truly they may well wonder at your paper, when the

“ ground of one of your objections had such an effect on
 “ an Archbishop’s mind, ‘ that if he had no other proof
 “ ‘ of her integrity, that alone would have convinced him
 “ ‘ of it !’ And another eminent divine who also carefully
 “ examined the same subject, has expressed himself in a
 “ letter to his friend in terms of the warmest esteem and
 “ admiration of what your Lordship condemns.

“ My last letter having only professed to lead you to
 “ suspend your opinions, I stated my readiness to give
 “ you reasons for it ; and therefore I went into no *proofs*.
 “ How can you say then that I disproved nothing ? But
 “ is it nothing to point out direct untruths and misrep-
 “ sentations ? I proved that one confident unqualified
 “ assertion was absolutely unfounded. It is recited in
 “ your paper, that ‘ Bishop Mofs pronounced Mrs. Meade
 “ ‘ perjured, if ever a woman was so.’ I proved that his
 “ Lordship ‘ *never pronounced her perjured, nor ever*
 “ ‘ said, or wrote, or encouraged the writing or saying,
 “ ‘ any thing whatever, that reflected on her character.’

“ Do not evade this point by telling me the Bishop
 “ had a good opinion of Mr. Daubeny. That is nothing
 “ to the purpose. I am only sure that the Bishop posi-
 “ tively denied what Mr. Daubeny positively asserted
 “ respecting Mrs. Meade, and what you have recited from
 “ Mr. Daubeny.

“ Is it nothing to disprove stories, related from Mrs.
 “ Tomline as facts, and recited also in your paper ; sto-
 “ ries utterly without foundation, invented to impose on
 “ the incautious ; disproved by Mr. Goddard’s corres-
 “ pondence with Mrs. Meade’s uncle, and even by a
 “ coachmaker in Long-Acre ? You are even mistaken
 “ in stating the time of Mrs. Meade’s marriage, although

“so extreme to mark what you call an inaccuracy in
“others. Is it nothing to shew how your Lordship has
“misrepresented me, and argued from that misrepresen-
“tation to injure my character? I have nothing to do
“with the opinions you quote in favour of Mr. Daubeny’s
“character; and I scorn to quote testimonies in favour of
“my wife, of whom there is but one opinion among the
“good and wise who know her. If Mr. Daubeny has
“calumniated her, his writing well or his knowing much
“will be but a poor palliation for him. I neither ask or
“care whether all those from whom you proclaim his
“character, ever saw the man when they praised the theo-
“logian. I never trouble myself with his character, I
“act only in defence of my own. But as you dwell on
“the Bishop of Durham, truth enables me to say, that
“after he had attentively perused all Mr. Daubeny had to lay
“before him, ten years ago, and had as attentively heard
“my case, his Lordship gave an opinion now before me,
“which so displeased Mr. Daubeny, that the Bishop often
“said, he would not for many years speak to his Lord-
“ship. And as to the story *respecting Dr. Blayney’s*
“*opinion*, the letters now on my table from Mrs. Blay-
“ney, and from that respectable clergyman whom the
“Bishop of Durham employed to enquire into the truth
“of that story, both prove it an imposition, and that his
“Lordship having made enquiry, expressed himself
“satisfied there was no foundation for the story. In
“your letter you say, ‘that you quoted authorities, and
“‘that I have not shewn your inferences to be unjust.’
“How could I? You have never seen me, nor any one
“on my part, nor did I know what your object was,
“until I saw your manuscript of forty-one pages. Con-

“ versing during three weeks with Mr. Daubeney, with
“ none but his party, your Lordship never wished to see
“ a friend of mine; nor in truth did I even know that
“ you were in Bath, when you were judging me, with my
“ enemy at your elbow as a counsellor.

“ It is impossible to go into many proofs in a letter;
“ but I would ask your Lordship a few questions, which
“ may induce you to wish you had been a little more
“ cautious. Did you ever enquire who conveyed to Mrs.
“ Barnston the report of her daughter’s evidence? or
“ whether she fairly knew what it really was; or in whose
“ style of writing the letters were, which are produced
“ as her’s; or what those persons thought of them to whom
“ they were addressed? Did you know that before the
“ trial it was threatened that she should oppose her daughter’s
“ evidence; and that it was asserted after the trial,
“ that she would have opposed it, if she had known it?
“ Did you ever hear that my attorney (by his mistake
“ indeed) subpoenaed Mrs. Barnston, and that hearing of
“ her agitation I dispensed with her and her sister on
“ account of their age and distress? Did you enquire
“ what was really the verdict? for Lord Kenyon’s question,
“ and the jury’s reply, would have rendered much
“ of your reasoning nugatory. And as I had a plot to
“ deceive Mr. Daubeney, and to obtain Miss Barnston,
“ did you know that I never thought of going to the
“ party until after six months solicitation from Mr.
“ Daubeney?

“ And now I will hasten to the chief objects of my
“ letter without attending to your general opinions, it not
“ being important to me, whether in these you are right
“ or wrong. The points at issue between your Lordship

“ and me are direct falsehoods which have been asserted
“ respecting me, and are recited in your paper.

“ The stories which a lady in Bath understood from
“ Mrs. Tomline, being disavowed by the latter, I insist
“ upon it that they be given up as unfounded by your
“ Lordship, they having obtained a place in your long
“ paper. I declare them to be absolutely false. I refer
“ you to proofs, and I pledge my honour to what I say.
“ There is not a shadow of foundation for the calumny.

“ I must now address myself immediately to your
“ Lordship on your own account, and I call upon you
“ as a Bishop, and as a man of conscience, to do justice.
“ You applied for a paper of mine, and you have mis-
“ quoted and misrepresented it, and on that misrepresen-
“ tation you have attacked and argued against the moral
“ character of my wife and myself. I hereby call on you
“ to acknowledge your error, to retract that attack, and
“ all the arguments built upon it. It is nothing to
“ the purpose what your peculiar opinion may be of the
“ binding force of promises, though obtained by decep-
“ tion ; I have only to do with a fact concerning myself.
“ I aver, and I have proved, that you have directly mis-
“ represented me, and that on that foundation you have
“ argued to the injury of my good name.

“ The paper I sent you is now before me; it was even
“ noted by some one while your Lordship had it, noted
“ in ill-spelt Italian, and falsely correcting me in the age
“ of my wife. I trust your Lordship will be as ready
“ to acknowledge the errors into which you have fallen, as
“ you were, to point out the duty of it to others. And
“ assuring you that in supporting my good name, and
“ what is equally dear to me, the good name of my wife,

“ I have never meant, and I hope you will not perceive
 “ any thing personally disrespectful to you.

“ I remain, &c. &c.

“ T. MEADE.”

No reply was given to this.

MR. MEADE to the Bishop of LINCOLN.

“ My Lord,

July 14th.

“ ——— I cannot help again calling on you to act up
 “ to the principles you have laid down. When I repro-
 “ bated the charges against my wife, and wrote to you
 “ that I was ready to meet and convince you of their
 “ falsehood, you say that I proved nothing. When I
 “ adopt your mode of reasoning, and fix on some points,
 “ and completely prove them to be false, in order to give
 “ you an opportunity of exercising your own position,
 “ ‘ that a person once detected in falsehood is not to be
 “ ‘ afterwards credited ;’ when I prove that what you
 “ recited on the authority of Mr. Daubeny is false, as to
 “ Bishop Moss’s pronouncing Mrs. Meade perjured, you
 “ quit the untenable ground of Mr. Daubeny’s veracity,
 “ and tell me, that the Bishop had a good opinion of
 “ him, and licensed him to the Free-Church. When I
 “ refer you to Admiral Stanhope for a falsehood asserted
 “ in his name respecting me, your Lordship takes no
 “ notice of it. When I declare the stories related by
 “ Mrs. Tomline to be utterly without foundation, you
 “ reply; ‘ that she told them on Mr. Daubeny’s autho-
 “ ‘ rity, and that she said you intended afterwards to
 “ ‘ enquire.’

“ When the whole life and character of Mrs. Meade
 “ are mentioned to you as being of themselves sufficient

“ proof against the guilt imputed to her, you pronounce
“ her character to be nothing to the purpose; yet with
“ an air of confidence you produce as proof for Mr.
“ Daubeny, that some Bishops thought highly of him as
“ a theologian. And when I prove that your Lordship
“ misrepresented me, you say it is nothing to the other
“ points.

“ Is this the honourable amends you make for the
“ stain you have endeavoured to fix on Mrs. Meade’s
“ character? Is not this protecting a favourite theolo-
“ gian at the expence of justice, candour, and innocence?
“ As to your declining to discuss Mrs. Meade’s character
“ in future, I would hail it as a sign of your beginning
“ to suspect that your discussions and your exertions have
“ been hasty and unjust. And as you called on Mrs.
“ Meade for that strength of mind that enables us to con-
“ fess the truth, though to our temporal disgrace, let me
“ intreat you to receive your own excellent advice from
“ the pen of a layman.

“ Confess the story about Bishop Moss to be false, and
“ give up the reasoning you have built on it. Do the
“ same by the stories related by Mrs. Tomline; and ac-
“ knowledge that the arguments you brought against my
“ character, on the foundation of a paper which you had
“ yourself misrepresented, were unfairly applied.

“ When you have done this, I will give you farther
“ proofs on proofs, that you have been deluded in other
“ points by misrepresentations, and by that bias which
“ seems to have blinded your eyes and shut up your ears.

“ Ask yourself, my Lord, whether you have acted
“ with impartiality and justice, whether you have done as
“ you would be done by. Place yourself in my situation;

“ and then consider the outrage offered to the honour and
 “ good name of my wife, and you will yourself justify the
 “ part I have acted.

“ Elevated though you are, we are both equally to be
 “ judged by GOD and by man.

“ I have your own authority for the difficulty of con-
 “ fessing errors; to you it must be doubly difficult after
 “ the hasty steps you have taken; but it will be doubly
 “ honourable to you; and I require it of you once more,
 “ as a man, as a Christian, and as a bishop.

“ I remain, &c. &c.

“ T. MEADE.”

No answer being given to these letters, and Mr. Meade having drawn up a reply to his Lordship, wrote once more to him.

Mr. MEADE to the Bishop of LINCOLN.

“ Chatley-Lodge, Sept. 17, 1805.

“ My Lord,

“ I HAVE just finished a reply to your Lordship’s
 “ paper of forty-one pages; in doing which, various occu-
 “ pations have much interrupted me.

“ I believe I have left no part untouched.

“ Under an affront to my wife, so public and unpro-
 “ voked, under such expressions and shocking charges as
 “ are contained in your paper, something must be done.
 “ What that may be, must depend on advice. But before

“ I proceed farther, I would once more say to your Lordship, that if reflection has opened your eyes, and you are disposed to acknowledge the gross impositions practiced on you; I am still ready to accept your acknowledgments. Conscious of my own motives, I feel no humiliation in thus condescending to write again to a person who, after having circulated unheard-of charges against my wife, declined to answer two letters written by me, pointing out some of your errors, and proposing to convince you of the rest.

“ I am not one of those men who like to speak evil of dignities. Educated a member of the established church, and I trust a sincere one, I am not indifferent to the wounds which our religion often receives from the conduct of its members.

“ There are few cases more marked than this in which we are concerned.

“ It will not be considered as an indifferent matter that unfounded stories and palpable misrepresentations are circulated against a lady, in order previously to degrade her, whose character it is intended to destroy.

“ Your Lordship is pleased to say, in your letter dated in July, ‘that you should discuss Mrs. Meade’s conduct as little as may be.’ I reject and I deprecate your concession. I fear only *private* stories, and *private* communications. Let her conduct be but fairly discussed, and both *her* innocence and her enemies’ disgrace must be manifested. But if your Lordship really mean to restrain your discussions, what do your relations mean by circulating at this time the charges against Mrs. Meade under your name?

“ Can your Lordship, even after what you have heard,?
 “ still persist in charging *perjury*? Will you still de-
 “ fend the expressions you have applied to Mrs. Meade,

* The reader has already seen the weakness of the pretences to wound Mrs. Meade. The Bishop rests much of his argument on the representation which he makes of her mind, as previously determined to comply with her mother, and therefore that nothing else could have affected her. No doubt, if the simple question had been, whether she would give up her happiness to her mother, her reply would have been, yes! because no daughter could feel for a parent more affection and duty. But her mother had given her consent to her acting for herself, and never made any personal objections to her choice. Miss Barnston's resistance was in fact to the influence over her mother of an interested person, whose efforts to defeat her happiness she considered herself as conscientiously justified in opposing. “ Mr. Daubeny heard you tell me,” says she, in a letter to her mother in October 1790, “ that you wished me to consult my own happiness, and that I was of an age to judge for myself.” She then describes him as labouring to render Mr. Meade odious in her mother's eyes; and adds, “ attached to “ Mr. Meade on the best principles, can I sacrifice my happiness to “ *Mr. Daubeny's* anger?” She then appeals to her mother, saying, “ that *she* hopes *she* shall always be able to subscribe herself her most “ dutiful, because no power can make her otherwise than her most “ affectionate, daughter.” And she concludes with adding, that those relations to whom in fact she owed the next duties to parents, were anxious that she should make this declaration of her mind and intentions to her mother; and she was indeed then preparing to go with them to Bath, to assert her independence. Did not Miss Barnston then express to her mother her intentions to act for herself as plainly as she could do, consistently with her former habits and sentiments? But after Miss Barnston's mind was alarmed by the particulars of Mr. Daubeny's charges against Mr. Meade on the subject of a will, she then indeed gave up all idea of resistance, and of acting for herself. “ Desire Mr. Meade not to think of me, but “ to defend his character,” says she, in a letter to Mrs. Gunning. She no longer urged her rights and determinations; for the charges about the will were necessarily first to be cleared up. And as to Mr. Daubeny, what justification can his supporters put in for him?

“ of ‘ convicted of false swearing;’ ‘ of incorrect princi-
 “ ‘ ples;’ ‘ of deceit;’ ‘ leading to lying;’ and ‘ this to
 “ ‘ false swearing.’

“ I trust, my Lord, when I merely relate these few
 ● words, and restrain my pen from any remarks, you
 “ will yourself not be backward to give me credit for my
 “ forbearance. I will even hope that you will prevent
 “ the farther exposure of this affair, and that you will ac-
 “ knowledge the gross impositions practised on you. I
 “ promise to accept these acknowledgments, and to bury
 “ the whole in oblivion. But to save trouble to your
 “ Lordship and to myself, I must declare to you that I
 “ will accept nothing short of the most ample and unre-
 “ served acknowledgments.

“ I remain, &c.

T. M.”

“ P.S. Since writing the above, I have received letters
 “ informing me that your paper has not only been circu-
 “ lated in Bath and London, but is at this time in cir-
 “ culation in Salisbury also. How far this is consistent
 “ with your letter to me in July, I leave to your Lordship
 “ to explain. That this unhappy affair is once more made
 “ public, I am truly sorry : but those who have obtruded
 “ it on the public must abide by the consequence.”

If his last attack on Mr. Meade's character was obnoxious in a legal point of view, was his first attack less so in a moral view? Will any one justify his violence from the beginning, to prevent the union of two independent persons, who sought a suitable connection with each other, on principles of virtue and religion? The pretence that Mrs. Barnston made serious objections is manifestly founded on quibbling; as is the assertion that the slander could not have affected Mrs. Meade's mind and conduct.

The Bishop replied as follows :

“ Sir, Rily-Grove, Sept. 23, 1803.

“ I Yesterday received your letter, dated September 19,
 “ in which you say that ‘ I declined to answer two letters
 “ ‘ written by you.’ I fear therefore that you have not
 “ received the letter which I wrote to you from Oldfield-
 “ hall in Cheshire, at the end of July, in answer to your
 “ letter of the 14th of that month. As I presume that I
 “ shall see your reply to my paper, I shall at present only
 “ say that I know nothing of the circulation of my paper.
 “ I never gave a copy of it to any one except your-
 “ self and Mr. Daubeny, the two persons who voluntarily
 “ entrusted me with their documents, for the express pur-
 “ pose of my forming an opinion upon the points in
 “ question; and it so happens that I have not heard the
 “ subject mentioned since I wrote to you from Buckden
 “ in June. I see no reason for acknowledging that
 “ ‘ gross impositions have been practised upon me;’ but
 “ I repeat what I said in my last letter, that I shall be
 “ always ready to give up any point in which you shall
 “ prove that I have been mistaken. I understand that
 “ you yourself have shewn your copy of my paper to
 “ several persons at Bath.

“ I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

“ G. LINCOLN.”

Mr. Meade answered :

“ My Lord,

“ I Received your Lordship’s letter of the 23d instant,
 “ but I have received no reply to either of my two letters
 “ of the 29th of June or 14th of July. The answer which

“ you say you wrote from Cheshire was probably of no
 “ great import, or you would have repeated its contents.

“ You must pardon my peremptorily denying that ‘ I
 “ ‘ voluntarily sent my papers to you for the express pur-
 “ ‘ pose of your opinion.’ If I had done so, it would
 “ only have rendered it more ungenerous to publish Mrs.
 “ Meade as convicted of false swearing, without your
 “ having once seen her, or any one on her part, or even
 “ letting her know one single ground on which you judged
 “ her, until you published her condemnation. But I must
 “ deny your assertion. A total stranger to your Lordship,
 “ I had not heard that you were within a hundred miles
 “ of Bath, when I received your application for my papers
 “ through Dr. Randolph and Miss MacLaine. My part
 “ was only not to refuse your application. But does not
 “ your own manuscript admit, that you volunteered from
 “ the interest you felt on account of Mr. Daubeny as a
 “ distinguished theologian ?

“ I must also positively deny that I applied for or desired
 “ your opinion. On the contrary, your Lordship read
 “ in one of my first papers, that I wanted no man’s
 “ opinion; that I rejected the pretended and affected
 “ demands of a new trial; that my cause being decided
 “ at law, I never would listen to private trials, without
 “ judge, jury, witness, oath, or restraint; without means,
 “ or without end.’ But that I should not refuse a liberal
 “ enquirer the satisfaction of seeing the grounds of the
 “ verdict.

“ My Lord, I presume, that even this last letter of
 “ your’s requires an ample apology. Your Lordship pro-
 “ fesses not to have circulated your paper. ‘ *Qui facit*
 “ ‘ *per alium, facit per se.*’ I only know that it is

“ circulating in Bath, London, Salisbury, and elsewhere?
 “ It is circulated by your family, obtruded by them even
 “ on strangers, who are desired as a favour to read it.

“ Your information that I also circulate it, makes me
 “ smile. Men do not usually spread such papers against
 “ themselves. If, before you had publicly pronounced
 “ on Mrs. Meade, you had expressed, as you now do, a
 “ presumption that you should see my reply, it would
 “ have been well on many accounts. But after the publi-
 “ cation of your paper, after your various exertions and
 “ letters to different persons, what can I expect from your
 “ seeing any papers of mine? Have you taken any notice
 “ of the letters and arguments I have already submitted
 “ to you? Have you honourably retracted the unjust
 “ expressions you applied to Mrs. Meade? Have you
 “ given up as unfounded the stories related by Mrs.
 “ Tomline? Have you acknowledged the words ascribed
 “ to Bishop Mofs to be also unfounded? Have you ac-
 “ knowledged or apologized for your own misrepresenta-
 “ tions of me? Yet you presume that you shall see my
 “ reply. No, my Lord; your mind seems made up.
 “ The poison of invective has been widely spread; and
 “ the antidote by which I propose to correct it, will, I
 “ trust, be effectual.

“ I am, &c.

T. M.”

The Bishop in reply wrote the two following letters :

“ Sir, Buckden Palace, Oct. 22, 1805.

“ I Have been so much occupied by business since my
 “ return to Buckden, that it has not been in my power
 “ sooner to notice your letter of September 28th. I now

“ enclose a copy of the letter which I wrote to you from
“ Cheshire at the end of July.

“ As you had a full power to withhold your papers,
“ and as you communicated them to me immediately,
“ and, without any objection, I must consider you as
“ ‘voluntarily sending them to me.’

“ If my paper has been circulated in the manner you
“ mention, it is certainly without my knowledge; and I
“ do not hold myself responsible for the acts of another
“ person which were not authorized by me.

“ I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

“ G. LINCOLN.”

Copy of a letter written by the Bishop of Lincoln to
Mr. Meade, from Cheshire, at the end of July 1805, and
which Mr. Meade did not receive.

“ Sir,

“ THE stile of your letter dated the 29th of last month
“ was such that I did not think it necessary to send any
“ answer to it. Your letter dated July 14th has followed
“ me into Cheshire, and I now take the earliest op-
“ portunity in my power of acknowledging it. I desire
“ to repeat, that I have not admitted any assertion upon
“ Mr. Daubenys authority alone as the ground of
“ my opinion. What Bishop Mofs said of Mrs. Meade
“ I have only recited as part of the conversation which
“ passed between Mrs. Meade and Mr. Daubenys. I
“ cannot allow, that you have proved that Bishop Mofs did
“ not use the expression ascribed to him. I did not notice
“ what you said concerning Admiral Stanhope, because

“ my opinion concerning Mrs. Meade’s evidence upon
 “ the trial could not possibly be affected by any thing
 “ which he could say. I cannot allow, that, in the case
 “ of Mrs. Meade, general character is to weigh against
 “ positive evidence: and the opinions of the bishops I
 “ have mentioned respecting Mr. Daubeny are not con-
 “ fined to his character as ‘ a theologian.’ All my
 “ papers upon this subject are at Buckden; but I am
 “ pretty confident that I have no where said that ‘ Mrs.
 “ ‘ Barnston was too old and infirm to give evidence against
 “ ‘ her daughter.’ I have always considered Mrs. Barn-
 “ ston’s absence from the trial as proceeding from a very
 “ different cause. The accounts of the interview to which
 “ you allude appeared to me perfectly consistent with each
 “ other; and I must consider them as agreeing in every
 “ essential point, till it shall be proved that there is some
 “ contradiction between them. Throughout my paper
 “ I have adduced the authorities upon which my opinion
 “ and conclusions rest, and see no reason to retract or alter
 “ any thing which I have said. I shall be ready to give
 “ up any point in which you shall prove that I have been
 “ mistaken; but I can admit nothing on either side upon
 “ the unsupported assertion of the party himself. The
 “ other parts of your letter do not appear to me to require
 “ any answer.

“ I am, &c.

“ G. LINCOLN.”

As Mr. Meade’s answer only repeats what has appeared
 in the pamphlet, it is needless to trouble the reader with
 it. He remonstrated with his Lordship on his professing
 to give up any points proved to be wrong; and yet hold-

ing to those which are proved to be so. He reminded his Lordship of the confidence placed in him by a stranger, and of the return made for such candour, by setting that stranger's character afloat in the world by the circulation of a long paper of invectives. And he concluded with saying, "Accustomed to esteem your writings, and always respecting your high station, I would not willingly, and I hope I have not in any degree acted inconsistently with these sentiments. If I speak or act with sensibility, your Lordship must ask yourself what or how you would feel, if any man living had uttered against your Lordship's wife one half of what you have circulated against mine.

"But whatever I may do to protect the honour and credit of her family, or however I may consider myself personally injured, not a sentiment of revenge, if I know myself, affects the mind of, &c. &c.

"T. MEADE."

Mr. Meade closed his correspondence with the Bishop by the following letter:

"Chatley-Lodge, March 12; 1806.

"My Lord,

"I Have directed my bookfeller to convey to you my reply to the manuscript you were pleased to send to me. Your Lordship thought proper to apologize, expressing sorrow that you were unable to send that unexpected and extraordinary paper to me sooner. It is not to follow an example thus set for me, nor is it with any sarcastic sentiment, that I also apologize for not conveying

“ to you an earlier reply. But it required calm thinking
“ to decide in what manner I should notice an injury
“ which, in every point of view, is probably without
“ example; and I wished also to subdue those sentiments
“ of irritation which a man must be supposed to feel, on
“ seeing a black catalogue of crimes unworthily charged
“ on his wife by a stranger. Above all I was desirous to
“ learn what was the object or plan of my wife’s enemies,
“ and to what extent the affront was to be carried, that
“ my defence might proceed accordingly. And finding
“ that the industry in dispersing this poison is almost be-
“ yond belief, and little consistent with that moderation
“ which a consciousness of a good cause would naturally
“ inspire, I have resolved to adopt a mode of putting down
“ this calumny, which I hope will be effectual.

“ Your Lordship thought proper to write a letter, re-
“ flecting on me, to my adversary; who, from his known
“ connection with those who manage or are concerned
“ in a periodical work for the review of literary publica-
“ tions, must be presumed to have taken advantage of his
“ situation to introduce into it your Lordship’s panegyric
“ on himself, and insult on me; unconnected as your
“ letter was with the subject in that Review, and incon-
“ sistent as the publishing of private manuscript letters is
“ with the scheme of such works. Whether this was
“ manly and honourable, others will judge. How far it
“ accorded with your Lordship’s intentions you best can
“ tell, who about that time assured me that you gave no
“ authority to any one for publishing your opinions, even
“ when your own connexions were most active in circu-
“ lating your papers. What is a plain person to under-
“ stand by all this?

“ I have however the satisfaction of knowing that I
“ have not returned evil for evil, although the intempe-
“ rance of some of my deluded enemies gave me full op-
“ portunity of effectually wounding them.

“ But in whatever manner my defence may hurt them,
“ they must charge it on themselves. They began the
“ attack, and I defend myself. They circulate, I do the
“ same. If they stir farther, so will I, in the most public
“ way.

“ Your Lordship has thought proper to pronounce
“ that one of the parties *must be guilty*. If it must be
“ so, the world will judge who that is.

“ I have the honour to be your Lordship’s

“ Most obedient servant,

“ THOMAS MEADE.”

“ P.S. I this moment hear from an Essex gentleman
“ that your Lordship’s paper is circulating in that county.”



Richard Cruttwell, Printer, St. James's Street, Bath.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE BISHOP of LINCOLN having sent to Mr. MEADE what his Lordship terms "An Explanation of his Conduct and Opinions," respecting his late extraordinary attack on Mr. Meade's family; this Explanation of his Lordship is now printed by Mr. MEADE for the use of those who already have the Bishop's first Attack, as given in Mr. Meade's "Reply;" to which this Paper is intended as a Supplement.

The World will be able to judge how far his Lordship has vindicated his Conduct by "the Explanation."



SUPPLEMENT.

ABOUT the end of March 1806, Mr. Meade sent to the Bishop of Lincoln a copy of the "*Reply*" to his Lordship, who took no notice of it whatever.

Some months having elapsed, and a suggestion having reached Mr. Meade, from a quarter too respectable not to claim attention, "that a letter, temperately calling on the Bishop to acknowledge his mistakes, would probably be effectual;" he wrote in consequence a letter, from which the following is an extract.

"July 21, 1806.

— "This correspondence is altogether an unpleasant one to your Lordship, but you will do me the justice to recollect that I did not lead you into it. Recollect also, my Lord, that I had the feelings of a gentleman and a husband; and then dispassionately read the unprovoked attack, which, in the hour of delusion, you made on the reputation of my wife. When you have done this, I hope you will be ready to make such

“ an acknowledgment as a gentleman should offer, and
 “ a Christian should accept.*

To this letter the Bishop gave no answer during *three months*. At length, however, Mr. Meade received the following.

“ SIR, *Riley-Grove, Oct. 25, 1806.*

“ I Lament exceedingly, that, by a variety of business and engagements, and absence from Buckden, I
 “ have hitherto been prevented from reading your book
 “ with the attention I wished. I have been detained in
 “ Lincolnshire longer than I expected, but I hope to return
 “ to Buckden the end of next week. I shall make
 “ a point of devoting my first leisure to the perusal of
 “ your book; and I hope it will not be long after my return
 “ into Huntingdonshire, before I shall be able to
 “ write to you fully on the subject. In the mean time
 “ I desire to repeat, that if I see occasion to change my
 “ opinion, I shall acknowledge it without any hesitation.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your obedient servant,

“ G. LINCOLN.”

Mr. Meade, well aware, from former correspondence with his Lordship, of what he had to expect after the above letter, replied as follows.

* Mr. Meade also added to the above letter the testimony of a clergyman (a stranger to him) in support of “ an *important fact* which had been related by Mrs. Meade, and denied by Mr. Daubeney;” and for the proof of which Mr. Meade proposed to refer his Lordship to that clergyman!

"MY LORD, *Chatley, Oct. 31, 1806.*

"I HAVE just received your Lordship's letter of the 25th inst.; and if it be meant as an answer to mine of *July last*, I beg to say, that in that letter I desired only an acknowledgment of your mistakes; such an acknowledgment, I mean, as would raise you in the esteem of every good and wise man in the kingdom. I did not then, or at any time, apply for your opinions; nor can I say, that the opinion of any individual is now of consequence to me. I owe to your Lordship that I have had the opportunity of laying this affair before the world; and you are probably no stranger to the general feeling on the subject.

"From the candid and obliging terms of your letter, I could almost indulge a hope that your Lordship had participated in the general sensation; but I must check that hope, when I recollect that, two years ago, a letter from your Lordship, with similar professions, was the immediate prelude to your attack on Mrs. Meade. And I cannot but think it an inauspicious symptom, that you began and finished that attack in less than *six weeks*; and that more than *six months* are elapsed, before you can find leisure to read the defence 'with the attention you wish.'

"You are pleased to say, 'if you see cause to change your opinion, you will acknowledge it without any hesitation.' But I cannot forget that your Lordship used nearly the same words last September twelvemonth, when untruths upon untruths had been pointed out to you.

“ ‘*If you see cause!*’ My Lord, if you had read my book even as you suggest, I should conceive that you could not sleep one night in your bed, without making apologies to that lady whom you so cruelly and unjustly aspersed.

“ Some however of my friends, and former advocates of your Lordship, flatter themselves that you are preparing to make apologies. If it should be so, you shall not find me among the last to do you justice.

“ I am, my Lord,

“ Your Lordship’s obedient servant,

“ T. MEADE.”

In a short time Mr. Meade received from the Bishop the following paper, which proved that his opinion of his Lordship’s intentions was not ill-founded.

“ SIR, *Buckden-Palace, Dec. 15, 1806.*

“ I Beg leave to repeat my real concern, that indispensable engagements, both of a public and private nature, have unavoidably prevented me from reading your book, till very lately, with that attention which the subject demands, and without which it was impossible for me to form any decided opinion of its contents; but as you express yourself satisfied with the reception your book has met with, this delay cannot be considered by you as of any great importance.

“ It is not to be imagined, that after all that has passed, I should think myself at liberty to judge of the various

‘ matter brought forward by you in defence of your
 “ cause, without enquiring of Mr. Daubeny what he could
 “ say in reply;” [the rule is a good one; why did not his
 Lordship apply it on both sides?] “ especially as I found
 “ that scarcely a single fact or circumstance which im-
 “ mediately concerns myself, and falls within my own
 “ knowledge, is correctly stated. I do not think it ne-
 “ cessary for me to notice the numerous misrepresenta-
 “ tions which make so large a part of your volume, some
 “ of which ought certainly to be disproved by Mr. Dau-
 “ beny in as public a manner as they have been circu-
 “ lated.” [The reader will observe, that the Bishop terms
 Mr. Meade’s assertions ‘ misrepresentations,’ on the autho-
 rity of Mr. Daubeny; and, on the other hand, his Lord-
 ship assumes that all Mr. Daubeny’s assertions are facts,
 without reference to Mr. Meade!] “ I shall confine my
 “ observations to such passages of your book as will ena-
 “ ble me to explain my own conduct and opinions.

“ In page 11 you say, ‘ among the families in Bath
 “ ‘ which zealously supported the cause of Mr. Daubeny,
 “ ‘ Mrs. Maltby and her daughter particularly interested
 “ ‘ themselves; close connexions of the Bishop of Lin-
 “ ‘ coln,—one being his mother-in-law, and the other
 “ ‘ his sister-in-law.’ In this you are entirely mistaken:
 “ neither Mrs. or Miss Maltby had any acquaintance with
 “ Mr. Daubeny at the time of my visit to Bath; nor had
 “ they formed any opinion on the case in question.”
 [If this be a fact, is it not most curious that people
 should be so busy about persons of whom they knew
 nothing? But that Miss Maltby ‘ *had* previously *formed*
 ‘ some opinion on the case in question’ appears from a
 speech acknowledged by herself.]

“ In the same page you say, ‘ the Bishop received impressions from Mr. Daubeny, and from his advocates
 “ ‘ and partizans.’ To this assertion I must give a direct
 “ denial.” [Mr. Meade did not say that the Bishop *had*
previous ‘ acquaintance with Mr. Daubeny,’ &c. But
 did not his Lordship, for *some reasons* relative to this
 subject, call upon, and form acquaintance with, Mr.
 Daubeny himself, and with his family; and with those
 persons and families in Bath, who are considered there as
 Mr. Daubeny’s warmest advocates? *Did his Lordship do*
the same by Mr. Meade?] “ I had no acquaintance
 “ with Mr. Daubeny, or with any of his advocates, or
 “ partizans, unless either of those words may be applied
 “ to a lady I have mentioned in my paper.” [Mr. Meade
 is not insensible of the pain it gives to persons of delicate
 minds, to have their names introduced into a subject of this
 nature; and he has therefore avoided it as much as possible.
 He assures the lady referred to by the Bishop, that he
 has not an atom of resentment against her: on the con-
 trary, he acknowledges to have heard, through a quarter
 which he believes to be truth itself, that that lady is
 very amiable. Her support of Mr. Daubeny was not
 unnatural: having heard *one* side, she (as is usual)
 thought it right. Indeed Mr. Meade is glad to take this
 opportunity of saying, that he has no enmity even against
 Mr. Daubeny’s most zealous supporters. He complains
 only of those, who, having proofs before their eyes of
 what is wrong, will still oppose the right.] “ The best
 “ proof I can give of my not having received impressions
 “ from conversation or unsupported assertion is, that
 “ throughout my paper I have quoted authorities on every
 “ important point.

“ In page 12 you say, ‘ the Bishop pretends to an authority paramount to law.’ I pretend to no such authority. I do not call in question the verdict according to the evidence before the court. The documents which I saw were not before the court at the trial. Why they were not, is a question with which I have no concern.” [The Bishop *had* concern in it; for if he *had enquired*, he would have learned that the documents ‘ *were not before the court*,’ because they could not have been supported there.] “ It is sufficient for me to know that it was the deliberate opinion of able lawyers, that if those documents had been produced, the verdict would have been different.” [Did able lawyers give an opinion in Mr. Daubeney’s favour, after reading Mr. Meade’s documents? Does not the Bishop know that men come off with disgrace in suits at law every day, because they deceive their counsel with statements that cannot be supported?] “ It seems difficult to conceive, why I should apply for your papers, or you ‘ with pleasure’ send them to me, if it were not for the purpose of my forming an opinion; and indeed in your letter of June 19, 1805, you say, ‘ that I have taken up an opinion contrary to ‘ your expectation,’ and consequently you expected that I should form an opinion. You sent me all the papers you pleased, and it is some satisfaction to me to observe, in the note of page 188, ‘ that I had seen almost all that is given in your book,’ as it proves that my examination was not an imperfect one. With respect to the circulation of my paper, (page 164,) I can only say, that no person has or ever had a copy of it from me, except yourself and Mr. Daubeney. It was never circulated by me, or at my desire, and I am not

“ responsible for the actions of others.” [The Bishop *mistakes*. Does his Lordship mean to put in an excuse for himself and his sister, in the spirit of *Æsop’s* fable, ‘ that *he* did not circulate, and *she* did not write?’]

“ In the same page you say, ‘ that the Bishop pronounces the intentions of Mrs. Meade to have been ‘ wicked.’ I pronounced no such thing.” [As the Bishop has thus placed Mr. Meade’s veracity at issue with his own, the reader shall judge between them, from a very few passages quoted from pages 306, 307, 316, in *his Lordship’s own words*:—‘ *For the purpose of gaining Mr. Meade a verdict for defamation, Mrs. Meade swore ‘ to an effect which was not produced:’ ‘ in this respect ‘ therefore she could not deny that she had sworn falsely.’ ‘ In order to give a criminal consequence to these words, ‘ she swore they produced an effect on her mind which ‘ they never had produced.’ ‘ By breach of confidence, ‘ and by this false evidence, she procured Mr. Meade a ‘ verdict against her brother-in-law.’ ‘ The progress ‘ seems to have been a natural one (in Mrs. Meade) from ‘ deceit to untruth, and from untruth to false-swearing: ‘ upon this last occasion she distinguished between false-swearing and perjury; but morality and religion know ‘ no such distinction.’—Mr. Meade now begs the reader to consider these expressions, and to form his judgment, whether the Bishop of Lincoln did or did not impute wicked intentions to Mrs. Meade; he will then decide upon the veracity of the Bishop, and Mr. Meade.]*

“ In several other places you accuse me of attacking Mrs. Meade’s character. In my letter to you of June 24, 1805, I have explained the reasons which induced me to use the expressions in the latter part of my paper;

“ but as those expressions seem to have been so much
“ misunderstood, without effecting any good purpose, I
“ do not hesitate to acknowledge my concern that I used
“ them. Without imputing ‘ wicked intentions’ to Mrs.
“ Meade, I thought a review of the whole business, not
“ in that partial way in which she had hitherto seen it,
“ and in which it must have been represented to her since
“ her marriage;” [Mr. Meade hopes that every man of
an honourable and feeling heart will appreciate justly the
disingenuous and sarcastic insinuation—*‘ as it must have
‘ been represented to her since her marriage!’* Was
it not *before her marriage* that her evidence was given
on oath? Were not all the letters which were quoted, as
indicating her mind, written *before her marriage*?
Were not all the witnesses, referred to by Mr. Meade,
quoted to facts antecedent to her marriage?] “ but as set
“ before her freely, and without reserve, by a person,
“ who, notwithstanding what you say, was really impar-
“ tial, and perfectly free from any bias: I thought that
“ such a review, with the documents adduced, might
“ possibly lead to some qualified concession on the part of
“ Mrs. Meade, to some acknowledgment of error, (not
“ of wilful perjury, as you suppose in your book,) which
“ might be the means of effecting a reconciliation be-
“ tween the parties. It was evident that formerly Mrs.
“ Meade and Mr. Daubeney had a great regard for each
“ other, and that there had been a similar regard between
“ you and Mr. Daubeney. I was willing to believe that
“ you were all worthy and respectable in your general
“ characters. I flattered myself with the hopes that this
“ old affection might be revived, and that the general
“ character of you all might operate in effecting a recon-

" ciliation. There might be weakness in this hope; but
 " I will ever maintain that I undertook the investiga-
 " tion from the purest motives, and with the best
 " intentions; that I conducted it without partiality;
 " and that I meant to attack no one's character.
 " But becoming, after examining the papers of both
 " parties, perfectly convinced of Mr. Daubeny's in-
 " nocence of the charges brought against him, and be-
 " lieving that Mrs. Barnston never did give what she
 " considered her full and free consent to the marriage, I
 " endeavoured to trace the progress of delusion, which
 " appeared to me to have produced the evidence given by
 " Mrs. Meade at the trial; and I considered a strong re-
 " presentation of what I could not but esteem a dangerous
 " sophistry, as necessary to recal her mind from its influ-
 " ence." [Who gave his Lordship a *right* to send to Mr.
 Meade's wife a '*strong representation*,' as he terms it;
 or, as every one else terms it, 'an unwarrantable torrent
 'of invectives?' His pretensions to charity are disproved
 by himself: for those invectives were not conveyed, in the
 mild spirit of the Apostle, to Mrs. Meade privately; but
 to the bitter enemy of Mrs. Meade, without any restraint
 of publication: and indeed his Lordship's own connec-
 tions were the *first* against whom the publication could
 be proved.] " I thought that if there were a real wish
 " for reconciliation, which I was willing to believe there
 " was, there would not be a very rigid and exact demand
 " upon the subject of concession. Thirteen years having
 " elapsed since the trial, I hoped that irritation and ani-
 " mosity might have subsided. The little conversation
 " I had with Mr. Daubeny induced me to think that this
 " was the case with him; and as my mind was perfectly

“ free from any prejudice against you and Mrs. Meade, I
 “ gave both of you credit for the same feeling. Had a
 “ reconciliation been thus effected, my paper would not
 “ have been circulated in the manner you say it has been;
 “ and the public, satisfied with the information that Mrs.
 “ Meade’s evidence had been founded in error, would
 “ have attached no farther blame to her character, or im-
 “ portance to the subject.” [One word will answer this
 laborious reasoning of his Lordship. He did not wait for
 those effects, which, he says, he was looking for. His
 paper was circulated without loss of time, even though
 Mr. Meade had desired to wait on his Lordship, to point
 out his mistakes.]

“ In page 13 you say, ‘ the proposed meeting was de-
 “ clined by his Lordship.’ I never declined to meet
 “ you. In your letter directed to me at the Deanery, St.
 “ Paul’s, and dated June 19, 1805, you say, ‘ I am in
 “ town, and shall be ready to wait on you.’ This let-
 “ ter was sent to me at Buckden, and in my answer, June
 “ 24, I say, ‘ if I had been in town, I should have been
 “ ready to hear from yourself any thing which you
 “ might have wished to state to me; but I do not ex-
 “ pect to be there for several months,’ &c. “ I cer-
 “ tainly did not think it necessary to go to town, but I left
 “ you at liberty to go to Buckden, if you pleased. You
 “ did not come, and you have never desired an interview
 “ since. I am however still ready to see you, if you wish
 “ it. Page 64: I still contend there is no evidence of
 “ Mrs. Barnston’s consent being given, or supposed or
 “ understood to be given. Not a single positive testimony
 “ is brought forward by you on this very material point.”
 [Is there any *evidence* that the consent was *not* given?

Mrs. Meade *has sworn* to the fact! And before the Bishop pronounced as he has done, he should have defined what he terms *evidence*. And lest he should not yet have learned what it is, Mr. Meade will take the liberty to instruct his Lordship, and to inform him, ‘*that the un-contradicted testimony on oath of a competent witness is, in English judicature, EVIDENCE;*’ and ‘*that the private assertions of persons out of court (much less of irritated or interested parties) is not evidence,*’ but may be *slander*. And as to *positive testimony*, in a case where only two persons were present, what does or can his Lordship expect, in the natural order of things, besides a solemn oath? Does he imagine that Mrs. Meade ought to have had a witness behind a curtain, or a person with an ear to the keyhole? But what is this perverse quibbling about Mrs. Barnston’s *consent*? as if that were the point at issue, or as if that determined the verdict. Why is he perpetually turning his eyes from the *slander*, for which the action was really brought? Mrs. Meade was 25 years of age when her father died, and left her in absolute independence; she was past 30 when she married: her mother at all times acknowledged that she was to judge and act for herself; and her mother’s consent could affect her mind and conduct no farther than she herself pleased.* But the truth is, that her mother’s *full* and *free* consent, which had naturally and certainly been given, was no sooner expressed, than the good old lady was poisoned and frightened out of all complacency on the subject; and if she really forgot the words which had passed between her and her daughter, it

* See Mr. Meade’s Book, page 50 to 90.

must be owing to the constant impressions of interested persons on an aged mind.] “ You only say, ‘ the proceedings of the Court of King’s-Bench would have “ ‘ instructed him better.’ I have already said that the “ documents I saw were not before the Court of King’s-Bench. You add, ‘ that Mrs. Barnston was a very “ ‘ old, irritated, deluded person:” [this assertion is a perverse anachronism!] “ and in other parts of your book “ you represent her as ‘ being superannuated at the time “ ‘ of the trial.” [Mr. Meade begs his Lordship to mark the page where he used the expression, ‘ *superannuated!*’ Mr. Meade described Mrs. Barnston as an old and worthy woman, unhappily deluded and irritated; and older by 40 years than that daughter, whose oath the Bishop would represent as *perjury*, because this old lady’s word or memory is said to oppose it. Was it disrespectful to Mrs. Barnston, that Mr. Meade protected the honour of her own daughter, his wife? Mrs. Barnston’s age is well known, although the Bishop mistated it. Nearly 74 at the trial, she lived about 12 years after it. Of late years she saw or heard none but the opponents of her daughter; and consequently Mr. Meade could judge of her only by circumstances and report. The offices of the minister of her parish were for several years supplied by Mr. Daubeney; and in a letter from Mrs. M. Barnston* to Mrs. Meade, in 1803, Mr. Daubeney was mentioned by her as the person through whom she must write to her mother. What then has Mr. Meade expressed in his book, that should be represented by the Bishop as unjustifiable? He never uttered a disrespectful word about her when living;

* See page 147, Notes.

and he is as little disposed to do it now she is dead. If at the age of 84 years she could sign the several pages of a voluminous will, giving Mrs. Meade's portion of her fortune to Mr. Daubeny; and if at that age she could make such speeches as Mr. Daubeny has expressed for her, why was she unable to receive a letter from her daughter? Why were her own child and grandchild not to be trusted with her alone? Above all, why was that person, who had quarrelled with the daughter, appointed to transact the business of that daughter's intercourse with her mother? Or why was this personal enemy of Mrs. Meade appointed the trustee of a little pittance for her children, which was in fact so small as to be unworthy of a trust, but as it might add to Mrs. Meade's mortification?] "There is the most unquestionable proof, that at that time Mrs. Barnston was in full possession of her faculties; and indeed she must have been so considered by your friend Mr. Coharr five years afterwards, when he went to Bath for the purpose of persuading her to be reconciled to her daughter. Mrs. Meade's own letters to her mother just before the trial prove the same thing. Mrs. Barnston being in this state, could not but know whether she had or had not given her consent to the marriage. But I cannot but take the liberty of observing that it is your constant practice, throughout your book, to attribute incapacity, delusion, improper motives, or undue influence, to all whose testimony is unfavourable to your wishes, and to assert with boldness and confidence, where you ought to bring forward evidence and proof." [This is a good bold unproved assertion!] "I refer you to Mrs. Barnston's letter, quoted in page 295 of your book, and to all the proofs I have produced on this point of the

“consent.” [This is an unfortunate reference for the Bishop’s argument. The passage to which he refers, in page 295, has these words addressed to Mrs. Meade by her mother: ‘My opinion of Mr. Meade *was formed* upon his conduct to me, to your brother, (Daubeny,) and to yourself.’ But when the poor old lady was induced to write these words, she forgot that her consent was given, and was stated to be given, *before* such opinion *was* or *could be* thus formed! If any one wished to know on what terms Mr. Meade had previously lived with Mrs. Barnston and her family, the last letter he received in England, just before his joining Mr. Daubeny and his party on the Continent, will shew it. The letter is from Mrs. M. Barnston, and not only expresses her own regards for Mr. Meade, but the impatience of Mr. Daubeny and his party for his going to them at Spa!] “I maintain that it is not said or implied in any letter you have quoted, that Mrs. Barnston had given her full and free consent. I am informed by Mr. Daubeny, that the letters printed page 68, 72, and 75 of your book, were never received by the family, or heard of before they appeared in your book. Whether the day for the marriage was fixed at the time of the trial, whether the carriage was bought, or whether Bishop Mofs used the expressions ascribed to him, are matters on which my opinion does not rest;” [that is, ‘whether lying and slander were imposed upon me, to bias my mind against you,’ is of no consequence!] “and I cannot but remark, that the eagerness with which you dwell upon these and other unimportant circumstances, shews no great confidence in the principal points of your cause. What have these circumstances to do

“ with the questions, whether Mrs. Barnston gave what
 “ she considered her full and free consent, or not; or whe-
 “ ther the words were spoken in June 1791? These are
 “ the questions to which I confine myself; and your ob-
 “ ject seems to be, to draw the attention of your readers
 “ from them.” [Mr. Meade believes he has dwelt enough
 on them to satisfy every dispassionate reader of his book!
 and the Bishop seems to dwell upon them only to keep
 the reader’s eye from the slander, of which a stranger
 would imagine that his Lordship had never heard!]

“ My supposed hostility to yourself and Mrs. Meade,
 “ and the many angry expressions which occur in your
 “ book, I notice no farther than to remark, that I can
 “ scarcely conceive that a person who felt a calm convic-
 “ tion of the truth of his cause, and who really believed
 “ that the statement he was controverting had produced
 “ no effect upon the minds of his readers, would write in
 “ such a style. In the reply to the passage in your letter
 “ dated July 1806, relative to the conversation which
 “ passed between Mrs. Tomline, Miss MacLaine, and
 “ Miss Maltby, in Bath; I shall only say, that the most
 “ satisfactory evidence which can be produced in such a
 “ case might be brought to prove the statement to you in
 “ my letter dated June 24, 1805, is perfectly correct,
 “ and that Mrs. Tomline and Miss Maltby did consider
 “ that conversation as entirely confidential, and did be-
 “ lieve that Miss MacLaine did consider it as confidential
 “ also. Miss MacLaine herself declares, ‘ she told no
 “ ‘ human being of the particulars of this conversation,
 “ ‘ which passed in March, till she met Mr. Meade at
 “ ‘ Mr. Sandford’s house in the beginning of June.’ It
 “ is true that Mrs. Tomline had little personal acquaint-

“ance with Miss MacLaine, but considering her as the
 “intimate friend of her sister, she was led, imprudently
 “the very readily acknowledges, to speak on the subject
 “in question; and Miss Maltby had previously assured
 “her sister in my presence, that the most entire confi-
 “dence might be placed in Miss MacLaine’s honour.”
 [Do not the Bishop, his wife, and his sister, appear *all* in
 this place to act like partizans; even expecting that Miss
 MacLaine ought to consider herself bound, as by ties of
honour, to be a faithful depositary of heavy charges against
 her closest friend; not even justified in making enquiry
 whether the charges were true or not?] “Mrs. Tomline
 “denies that she asserted the circumstances in question to
 “be positive facts; and can only account for Miss Mac-
 “claine misunderstanding her so entirely, by supposing
 “that Miss MacLaine (who with respect to language may
 “be considered as a foreigner) understood as positive as-
 “sertions what she said respecting these circumstances
 “being capable of proof, in contradiction to letters and
 “conversations which are liable to different interpreta-
 “tions. Miss MacLaine acknowledges that Mrs. Tom-
 “line said repeatedly, in the course of conversation, that
 “the Bishop would form no opinion till he had seen Mr.
 “Meade’s papers; and this acknowledgment appears
 “itself sufficient to prove that Miss MacLaine must have
 “mistaken Mrs. Tomline.

“With respect to the present state of the public opi-
 “nion, which you represent as being favourable to your
 “cause, I shall only observe, that Mr. Daubeny’s for-
 “bearance (a forbearance of which there are but few
 “examples) may have led many persons to believe, that
 “he is unable to defend himself from the charges you

“ have brought against him.” [The Bishop mistakes this matter. Mr. Meade brought no charges against Mr. Daubeny. The action at law was because Mr. Daubeny had made charges against Mr. Meade.] “ I am fully
“ convinced that he possesses ample means of complete
“ vindication; and this unhappy affair is now brought
“ to such a point, that if a more private method cannot
“ be found for settling it, he will feel himself com-
“ pelled to come forward upon ground which he has not
“ hitherto taken; although the elucidation of the various
“ matter at issue between you and him may lead to an
“ exposure of transactions and characters, which nothing
“ short of the necessity of the case would justify. Mr.
“ Daubeny is however still anxious to terminate this un-
“ fortunate family dispute without such an exposure; and
“ in his own words I inform you, that he is ready to
“ meet you and your most respectable friends on the sub-
“ ject of my statement and your book; and if you can
“ either disprove the one, or substantiate the other, he
“ will readily subscribe to any acknowledgment I may
“ think proper to be made in such a case; on the condi-
“ tion alone, that the decision of the parties who may fit
“ in judgment shall be made public. And for myself,
“ I declare, that if it should be proved that I have made
“ any unfounded assertion, or have misrepresented any
“ fact, I will most willingly acknowledge the error.”
[Whether the Bishop has shewn himself willing to acknowledge errors, or stubborn to persevere in unfounded assertions, the reader may form some judgment from the few following specimens, *ex magno acervo*, in his Lordship’s own words, viz.

‘ *Certain it is,*’ says his Lordship, ‘ that Mr. Saw-bridge carried such and such a message from Mrs. Meade to her mother.’—See page 92.

‘ *Indeed,* Mr. and Mrs. Daubeny repeatedly said so and so on the Continent.’—Page 154. (As if his Lordship *could know* what people said whom he had never seen.)

‘ Mrs. Barnston was *in truth* in her 72d year at the time of the trial.’

“ The late Bishop Mofs’s *deliberate judgment* was, that Mrs. Meade was most certainly a perjured woman, and that her mother could not receive her, until,” &c.
—See page 113.

‘ *Certain it is,* that the wedding-day *was fixed* before the trial.’—Page 118.

‘ That the wedding clothes were bought.’

‘ That the carriage was *bespoke*.’—Page 119.

‘ That Mr. and Mrs. Meade were *actually* married about ten days after the trial,’ &c.—Page 173.

These are the Bishop’s assertions, and every one of them was proved, in an early period of Mr. Meade’s correspondence with his Lordship, to be false; yet he has never apologised, or retracted one!]

“ I will only add my warmest wishes that you may accede to this proposal, in the same spirit with which it is made, and that it may be the means of restoring harmony among the branches of Mrs. Meade’s family, which have been so long at variance with each other.

“ I am confident that such a reconciliation would be to the advantage, the credit, and the comfort of all the parties.

I am, Sir,

“ Your obedient servant,

“ G. LINCOLN.”

MR. MEADE'S Reply.

“ MY LORD,

“ I Have received your Lordship's very long letter, and
 “ am sorry to perceive in it only a continuance of that
 “ temper with which you began our correspondence; and
 “ as you chiefly dwell on things which are frivolous in
 “ themselves, or which have been explained in my book,
 “ I should put your letter by altogether, without notice,
 “ but that I have reason to believe it is designed for other
 “ uses, and for other eyes than mine.

“ The assertion which you hazard of my misrepresent-
 “ ing Mr. Daubeney, only shews your Lordship to be a
 “ partizan, for it is impossible you could know it; and
 “ your general imputations of sophistry and incorrectness
 “ are, I conceive, not entitled to an answer.

“ But your Lordship being, like others, liable to self-
 “ deception, I would advise you to let any man of com-
 “ mon sense read your invectives against Mrs. Meade, and
 “ ask him whether they were becoming a bishop, and
 “ ‘ *whether they were calculated to promote reconcili-*
 “ ‘ *ation?*’ And as you set out with expressions of ‘ *sor-*
 “ ‘ *row*’ that during seven months you could not read Mrs.
 “ Meade's defence; let me ask you, whether any man has
 “ a *right* to attack another's reputation, and not find
 “ leisure to read the defence?

“ Your apology for not sending me your opinion sooner
 “ was at best unnecessary, as my last letter rejected *any*
 “ *opinion* from you: and the intimation that you have

“ have been ‘ *enquiring of Mr. Daubeny,*’ is only per-
 “ fisting, as I suspect, in your original errors.

“ The reproach that I have dwelt on *minutiæ*, recoils
 “ wholly on yourself; for I have only repelled your own
 “ attacks in those *minutiæ*. But if I was wrong in
 “ stooping to explain them, what must be thought of your
 “ Lordship’s cause and conduct, who could bring for-
 “ ward those frivolous subjects as grounds of attack? But
 “ the difficulty of encountering your Lordship arises only
 “ from your shiftings. Beat off from one ground, you
 “ dexterously fly to another, pronouncing that which you
 “ have quitted to be not worth retaining; while fight-
 “ ing to the last drop of your ink, you can thus continue
 “ the contest to the end of time.

“ You deny ‘ that you attacked any one, or pronounced
 “ ‘ Mrs. Meade’s intentions wicked, or imputed perjury
 “ ‘ to her.’ If you can assert this, my Lord, you and I
 “ have not a common language. Look only to page 316,
 “ line 20, of my book, and ask any man who under-
 “ stands English, what you meant?

“ And when you say, ‘ that you did not decline to meet
 “ ‘ me, recollect that I went to London, ‘ proposing to
 “ ‘ wait on you, and to point out your mistakes;’ to which
 “ you replied, ‘ that you should not be in London for
 “ ‘ several months,’ while, in the mean time, your papers
 “ were eagerly circulated by your connections, and the
 “ subject most disingenuously smuggled into a respectable
 “ Review.

“ But you aver, in high tone, ‘ that it was not your bu-
 “ ‘ siness to come to town:’ was it mine to follow you?
 “ I rather conceive, that as *your* character, and that of
 “ of *a lady* whose reputation you had attacked, were at

“ stake, it was your duty to wait on the husband of that
 “ lady, wherever he might be, that you might rejoice in
 “ making honourable acknowledgments for the wrongs
 “ you had done her.

“ When you say, ‘ that you now intend only to explain
 “ ‘ your own conduct, &c.’ it is evident that you would
 “ willingly be a *guarantee* for your friend, but not an
 “ *ally*. And, *rebus extantibus*, you shew your discretion
 “ in this; for certainly you have as much as you can do
 “ to defend what concerns yourself. Reluctantly as I
 “ write to your Lordship, I must notice a few of your
 “ leading misrepresentations. ‘ Mrs. Barnston,’ you say,
 “ ‘ did not consider that she had given her full and free
 “ ‘ consent, &c.’ Who said she did so consider? Mrs.
 “ Meade, when incidentally questioned, declared what
 “ she herself considered; namely, that Mrs. Barnston had
 “ given her full and free *consent*. And who is he that
 “ dares to impute perjury to her for having so considered
 “ it? Your insinuation, that some of the letters which I
 “ have quoted were not received, shews how sore they
 “ make some people, who probably did not suspect that
 “ they were providentially preserved. The pretence that
 “ they were not received, is a poor artifice. The whole
 “ story is one piece, in which every part equally proves
 “ the whole.

“ You throw away much time and writing on a subject,
 “ which has nothing to do with the points at issue; and
 “ in which I shall shew you to be under your usual mis-
 “ takes. I have it under Miss MacLaine’s own hand, and
 “ under that of the Rev. Mr. Sandford, that you are in-
 “ correct in your account of the stories told to the former,
 “ respecting Mrs. Meade. *They were not told as on the*

“ *authority of Mr. Daubeny.* And when you recite
“ that Miss Maclaine did not mention the circumstance
“ until she saw me at Clifton, I must again set your Lord-
“ ship right ; for with an anxious heart she applied im-
“ mediately to Mr. Sandford, in hopes that he might be
“ able to explain the tales she had heard ; which he being
“ unprepared to do, wrote in consequence to me, and
“ thus the whole train of imposition was detected. But
“ you intimate that the anecdotes were related ‘ *in confi-*
“ ‘ *dence.*’ In confidence to whom ? to Miss Maclaine,
“ who was known to be peculiarly attached to us, whose
“ house she had immediately come to after the death of
“ her venerable father ; and to whom the mournful but
“ friendly office of interring that excellent man had been
“ then lately committed !

“ Did you expect that Miss Maclaine should hear these
“ stories, and not make enquiry about them ? Of what
“ stuff must she be made, if she could act so ? But unable
“ to defend yourself, you employ your argument in idle
“ contradiction ; and because I understood and repre-
“ sented your connections to be *partizans*, you earnestly
“ dispute the unimportant point. But by what other ap-
“ pellation do you describe persons who acted as they
“ did ? You yourself deprive them of the shadow of ex-
“ cuse, when you admit that there had been *no enquiry*
“ *into the truth* of those stories which they were yet so
“ earnest to have believed.

“ What you aver of Miss Maltby has been fully dis-
“ proved by herself, as I shall hereafter shew. And when
“ you immediately began to act against us, on becoming
“ a visiter in her house, the obvious inference that you
“ were influenced by her occurred to me, and to every

“ one else. In a paper written by herself she admits even
“ more than I expected ; for she not only *acknowledges*
“ a speech which manifests a previous prejudice against
“ Mrs. Meade, but she *confesses* that she circulated your
“ paper, and even specifies your visiting those families
“ in Bath, which are considered peculiarly devoted to Mr.
“ Daubeny’s interests there. But whether it was A. or
“ B. that influenced your Lordship, or whether you only
“ followed the bent of your own inclinations, is of no
“ sort of importance to me, or to my cause.

“ You thought, perhaps, that you had only to stretch
“ forth your hand, and crush a retired individual like
“ myself. But standing on a good cause, and supported
“ by the laws of our country, I was enabled to bid defi-
“ ance to your Lordship in the zenith of your power,
“ even when you could convey to me your attacks under
“ the signature of a Prime Minister. But power, when
“ aiming at oppression, always disarms itself; and how-
“ ever high your Lordship may have considered yourself,
“ I trust that the judgment of the world has placed you
“ in this controversy much below your opponent.

“ The charge of want of temper is like the other angry
“ expressions which you have condescended to use. That
“ I have written to conviction, and in language not unbe-
“ coming a gentleman, is proved by the testimony of all
“ dispassionate readers of my book; and among them it is
“ with peculiar pleasure that I reckon, emphatically, the
“ Clergy, up to the highest ranks. But I neither affect the
“ language of an hypocrite, nor do I conceive that a philo-
“ sophical coldness of expression, when my wife is in-
“ sulted, would be most natural, or most decorous in me,
“ as your Lordship seems to think. Yet I declare, that

“ under this trial of human passions, to which you have
“ brought me, I have uniformly studied to preserve in my
“ mind a recollection of the high dignity of that station,
“ to which you have been so fortunate as to be raised.

“ The threat held out to me by your Lordship, in Mr.
“ Daubeny's name, I reject with *scorn*; and lament
“ that a bishop should stoop to be the agent for conveying
“ such. This bullying is only designed to give you a false
“ confidence; it is a stale trick, of fourteen years
“ standing, which was played off on others, as well as on
“ Mrs. Meade and myself, previous to Mr. Daubeny's
“ trial; but which I did not then condescend even to
“ notice. Your Lordship having, however, thought pro-
“ per to insult me with a repetition of this threat, I re-
“ quest and desire that you will never again give yourself
“ or me the trouble of writing to me, unless it be to make
“ apologies for such conduct. In reply to your intima-
“ tion that Mr. Daubeny must publish ‘ my misrepresen-
“ ‘ tations,’ I will not offend you by any expression of
“ contempt or menace, but only assure you that I am *not*
“ *unprepared* for him. I fear his facts as little as I do
“ your Lordship's arguments. No! my Lord, he will
“ act a much wiser part to retire to his study, and, put-
“ ting his hand on his heart, ask himself whether all has
“ been correct. *Verbum sat sapienti.*

“ And in return for your Lordship's uncalled-for ad-
“ vice, I do recommend that you lay before your counsel
“ your attack on Mrs. Meade: ask them how the law
“ considers such; and then tell them that Mr. Meade can
“ prove the circulation of it by one of your own closest
“ connexions. You will then learn *where* there has
“ been really *forbearance*!

“ ‘ *The pleasure* with which,’ you say, ‘ I sent you my
 “ ‘ papers,’ is a singular ground to justify insults. The
 “ papers were sent at the instance of Miss Maclaine, to
 “ whom your family was earnest in giving assurances of
 “ your disinterestedness, when you were seeking to get
 “ possession of those papers. And having never refused
 “ a similar application, from any gentleman who wished
 “ to form an opinion on the subject, I conveyed them to
 “ you, with usual expressions of civility, although I had
 “ never seen your Lordship, nor even knew your name.
 “ Confident in my cause, to which the laws had added
 “ their sanction, I could have no interest in giving or
 “ withholding them. But did I not express in the paper
 “ marked No. 4, ‘ that I wanted no man’s opinion;’
 “ ‘ that the *legal* question was decided, and the *moral* one
 “ ‘ alone of family peace remained unsatisfied?’ By what
 “ *right* then did you attack my wife and myself in lan-
 “ guage which no man reads without indignation? What
 “ authority had you for laying my papers privately before
 “ Mr. Daubeny, or his friends? If this was not done,
 “ deny it without evasion for your character’s sake. They
 “ were a sacred trust, indiscreetly indeed committed to
 “ your Lordship by a stranger, on your own application.
 “ Who noted them with a pencil? It is not in your Lord-
 “ ship’s hand-writing. What do you say for misquoting
 “ those papers, and perverting them to a sense they never
 “ meant? I declare the fact, and any gentleman who
 “ applies to me shall be satisfied of it.

“ A stranger as you were to the parties, and (however
 “ unfeeling towards Mrs. Meade) yet professing zeal for Mr.
 “ Daubeny, only as he was a ‘ distinguished theologian ;’
 “ why did you not in your assertions and anecdotes make

“ yourself acquainted with the certainty of your state-
“ ments, before you made yourself responsible for their
“ truth; whereas many of them have been proved to be
“ flagrant violations of notorious truth? But when ha-
“ tred is indulged to its extent, every object is overlooked,
“ but what tends to gratify the predominant passion. In
“ your great zeal for your friend, you say, that counsel
“ advised him to a new trial. What a wretched argu-
“ ment is this, even if the fact were true; but to which
“ I have *good reasons* for giving no credit. But what
“ would the story prove, even if it were true? No more,
“ than that counsel gave an opinion on a case, which
“ being falsely stated, the opinion was worth nothing.
“ This happens every day. But I really believe that your
“ Lordship has not read my book; for I can trace in
“ every line, and in every objection, only the determined
“ partizan.

“ Before I conclude, I must observe, that there is one cir-
“ cumstance from which you are perpetually turning your
“ own eyes, and those of others; and therefore I think it
“ right to repeat, what I have often explained to you,
“ that my action at law was for *slander*; that the ob-
“ ject of that slander was stated to be, to prevent a lady,
“ who was her own mistress, from marrying me; and
“ that the influence of that slander produced the effect
“ intended, until a trial in the Court of King’s-Bench
“ took place; after which a marriage was the consequence
“ of the verdict;—which verdict had expressly and dis-
“ tinctly proved both the *slander*, and the marriage having
“ been prevented by the effect of it. But if Lord Ke-
“ nyon and the jury had been of opinion, that notwith-
“ standing the verdict in my favour, yet that the marriage

“ was for ever lost, the damages would probably have
 “ been at least thirty times greater than they were.

“ *Whatever means may have been resorted to, to*
 “ enable those who were wounded by the verdict to tor-
 “ ture and perplex this subject, neither open falsehood
 “ nor ingenious sophistry can touch the evidence on
 “ which the judgment of the Court was given;—a judg-
 “ ment, confirmed, almost providentially, by the concur-
 “ rence of every circumstance which could throw light
 “ on the subject; and which circumstances have been
 “ forced into public view by the folly of our opponent,
 “ and the infatuated conduct of his partizans, not his
 “ friends.

“ I now take my leave of your Lordship, and can truly
 “ say, that I have neither hatred or ill-will towards you.
 “ But the next time that a bishop comes an hundred miles
 “ out of his diocese, to intrude himself (if on this occa-
 “ sion I may be allowed to use a scripture expression) as
 “ a busy-body, and a meddler in other men’s matters,
 “ my respect and attachment to the Church make me
 “ hope that he may come off with more *eclat* than has
 “ attended your Lordship’s late attempt. And, far from
 “ envying you the satisfaction you may derive from the
 “ approbation of your own conscience, and the solitary
 “ panegyrics of your friend Mr. Daubeney, I quit all
 “ private correspondence with you for ever; and remain,

“ My Lord,

“ Your Lordship’s obedient servant,

“ T. MEADE.

“ *Chatley-Lodge, Jan. 1, 1807.*”

The Bishop immediately gave the following reply.

" SIR, *Buckden-Palace, Jan. 5, 1807.*

" THERE are three points in the letter which I received from you on Saturday, to which I think it right to reply. I did not lay your papers before Mr. Daubeney or his friends; and I have reason to believe you have been already informed through Dr. Randolph that I did not, though you seem to have forgotten this circumstance.

" The following passage is copied from a paper before me in Miss MacLaine's hand-writing: ' Miss MacLaine told no human being any particulars of this conversation, (with Mrs. Tomline in March,) till she met Mr. Meade the beginning of June at Mr. Sandford's house, &c.' I am therefore under no mistake in what I state on this subject.

" Miss Maltby sent me a copy of the paper which she had allowed* (her's and your friend) to read to you; and upon referring to it, I can find no ground whatever for your assertion, that ' what I aver of Miss Maltby has been fully disproved by herself;' but, on the contrary, I consider this paper as fully confirming every thing I have said respecting her.

" I am, Sir,

" Your obedient servant,

" G. LINCOLN."

* The Bishop mistakes this point:—the paper was sent *avowedly* and *expressly* to be read to Mr. Meade, as Miss Maltby's vindication of herself.

Mr. Meade answered the Bishop's letter as follows.

"MY LORD,

Jan. 10, 1807.

"I Have received your Lordship's letter of the 5th inst.; and although I expected that my last should close our correspondence, yet I now find it necessary to correct an unmerited insinuation which you are pleased to make under Dr. Randolph's name. Yesterday I called on the Doctor; and having read your letter, he observed, 'that he had received no communication from your Lordship on the subject alluded to, and confessed, 'that he had made none whatever to me upon it.' This, I presume, is a sufficient reply to your assertion, 'that you have reason to believe I have been already informed by Dr. Randolph on the subject, although I seem to have forgotten it.* The cir-

* Since these sheets went to the press, the Bishop wrote another letter to Mr. Meade, stating, that the communication, to which his Lordship alluded, was made in a letter from Mr. Daubeny through Dr. Randolph. Mr. Meade certainly received that letter a year and half ago. But the Bishop might have known that Mr. Meade could not and would not consider an assertion from Mr. Daubeny as an answer from his Lordship. Mr. Meade was not to suppose the Bishop to be so identified with Mr. Daubeny, as that the assertion of one was to be the assertion of the other. Nor in fact did Mr. Daubeny's letter convey one whit more of information or of satisfaction to Mr. Meade, than all the Bishop's letters on the subject. Who was it that saw or noted the paper which the Bishop obtained from Mr. Meade? Who communicated, directly or indirectly, its contents to Mr. Daubeny? Who authorized Mr. Daubeny to threaten Mr. Meade with applying to the Bishop of Lincoln for a copy of what he called "*charges* against him, laid before his Lordship by Mr. Meade?" These are questions which have been constantly evaded.

“ ‘ circumstance of your laying my papers before Mr.
 “ ‘ Daubeny, or his friends,’ can be of little importance
 “ to me; but surely it is not so to your Lordship: for
 “ you must naturally wish to clear yourself even from an
 “ appearance of having betrayed to an enemy a stranger
 “ who had confided in your honour. You say, ‘ you did
 “ ‘ not lay my papers before Mr. Daubeny, or his friends.’
 “ I hope there is no reserve in this assurance. But *who*
 “ noted one of the numbers with a pencil? It is not your
 “ Lordship’s hand-writing. How came Mr. Daubeny
 “ to be acquainted with those particular parts of my pa-
 “ per, which he thought proper to call *charges* against
 “ him; and which, not being touched upon in your pub-
 “ lic paper, must have been *privately* communicated to
 “ him? Who authorised him to threaten me with apply-
 “ ing to your Lordship for them, in case I should decline
 “ to furnish him with a copy? It is evident there has been
 “ abuse by some one; and your Lordship does not at-
 “ tempt to explain or account for it.

“ I am sorry that so much time has been wasted on the
 “ trifling subject, ‘ whether Miss MacLaine applied for
 “ ‘ satisfaction, *in the first instance*, to Mr. Sandford,
 “ ‘ or to myself:’ nor should I now notice it, but to
 “ shew to your Lordship, and to the world, how mistaken
 “ you are in every point where you attack us. My as-
 “ sertions on that subject were literally and strictly true.
 “ I stated that your Lordship’s wife and sister endea-
 “ voured to poison Miss MacLaine’s mind against Mrs.
 “ Meade by unfounded anecdotes; and that Miss Mac-
 “ claine, in the hope of having them cleared up, applied
 “ to my much-valued friend, the Rev. Wm. Sandford;
 “ who in consequence wrote to me. I have the fact re-

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“ corded in his own hand; and, thank GOD! he lives to
“ testify it. Some time afterwards, having gone to Clif-
“ ton, I satisfied Miss MacLaine so effectually of the in-
“ justice of those anecdotes, that it appears she soon for-
“ got whether she had mentioned them *in the first in-*
“ *stance* to my friend, or to myself; and she probably
“ might have expressed herself as you quote, on that part
“ of the affair which was wholly unimportant. But she
“ has voluntarily written me a letter, by Mr. George
“ Sandford, correcting her trifling mistake, and confirm-
“ ing my statement. Yet, after all, what has this to do
“ with the only point I contend for, namely, that your
“ family acted as partizans? Miss MacLaine denies posi-
“ tively that the anecdotes were related to her, *as on the*
“ *authority you suggest*. If the stories had been related
“ on *such* authority, they would not, as she says, have
“ disturbed her mind, nor would she have troubled herself
“ to enquire about them.

“ Indeed your Lordship’s own conduct confirms, in a
“ great degree, Miss MacLaine’s account. For if Mrs.
“ Tomline poisoned Miss MacLaine’s mind with stories,
“ about the truth or falsehood of which she had not en-
“ quired; your Lordship soon afterwards acted a similar
“ part, by openly reciting, in your attack on Mrs. Meade,
“ the very same stories, without giving yourself the trou-
“ ble to enquire! But to use Miss MacLaine’s own words,
“ ‘ what right had Mrs. Tomline to poison her mind at
“ ‘ all against her closest friends?’ As to the paper sent
“ by Miss Maltby for the purpose of being read by me,
“ I consider it fully sufficient for my purpose. How your
“ Lordship may please to consider it, is of no importance
“ to me; nor do I enquire which of her papers she sent

“ to you, as I understood she wrote more than one. Her
 “ previous prejudices against Mrs. Meade, and her subse-
 “ quent agency and activity, are proved in the paper
 “ which I and others saw. Whether she had *personal*
 “ acquaintance with Mr. Daubeny, is of no consequence.
 “ Prejudices may exist without personal acquaintance, as
 “ your Lordship shewed when you entangled yourself in
 “ this dispute, ‘ *because a distinguished theological*
 “ ‘ *writer*’ was concerned in it; and *because a friend of*
 “ yours in London ‘ *had changed his opinion on the*
 “ ‘ *subject.*’

“ So Miss Maltby might have taken her bias also, and
 “ interested herself for one of the parties, previous to any
 “ pretence of enquiry; as she afterwards became an agent
 “ in circulating your attack on Mrs. Meade, without even
 “ affecting to have read the defence.

“ I am, my Lord,

“ Your Lordship’s obedient servant,

“ THOMAS MEADE.”

BEFORE Mr. Meade closes this paper, he will explain two circumstances which the Bishop of Lincoln has noticed, and which could not conveniently be introduced into the preceding notes.

In reply to his Lordship’s endeavours to disprove what Mr. Meade has stated respecting Miss Maltby, Mr. Meade

begs to observe, that in a paper *which she wrote for the express purpose of being read by Mr. Meade as her vindication*, she professes neither to have been an advocate for Mr. Daubeny, nor to have influenced the Bishop. But she mentions a still older friend of his Lordship than herself, as the person who led the Bishop into this dispute.

Be that as it may, it must be recollected that it was in Miss Maltby's house, and in her presence, that her sister related to Miss MacLaine those aspersions on Mrs. Meade's character, into the truth of which they do not even pretend that there had been any previous enquiry! Who was it that thus instigated Mrs. Tomline?

It must be also observed, that Miss Maltby, though she endeavours to write with extreme caution, admits that she once told Miss MacLaine, "that Mrs. Meade's cause with Mr. Daubeny could never be cleared up in this world:" and this sentiment she expressed, knowing that Mrs. Meade had, in that cause, given evidence on oath in a court of justice! Can Miss Maltby by any explanation be considered unprejudiced?

But Mr. Meade in fact only proposed to state that the Bishop took his bias from prejudiced persons, with whom his Lordship had communication. Public and private information, as well as *personal observations*, had assured him that Miss Maltby was one of those prejudiced persons; and he stated what he thought was notorious. But is Miss Maltby ignorant, that it was not of the smallest importance to him, whether one friend or another had biased the Bishop? whether it was a sister-in-law, or a still older friend?

Miss Maltby's whole conduct, first and last, marks her as a partizan of Mr. Daubeny. She admits that "she

“circulated the paper so injurious to Mrs. Meade;” “that she gave it to *ten* people;” “that she even *borrowed* it, that she might lend it out;” “that she gave it to one person who was a stranger to her, and who had not desired it;” “that she never read Mrs. Meade’s defence,” but “relied entirely on the *acuteness* of the Bishop her brother.” Mr. Meade having always heard Miss Mac-laine and others speak of Miss Malthy with esteem and regards, is ready to believe that she did not err from personal hatred; but she has been too much disposed to encourage self-deception. She persuades herself that she fought only to support the truth; yet she never enquired into it! She became a zealous agent for one of the parties; but she trusted altogether to another’s opinion. The paper which she circulated has been proved, from beginning to end, to be a violation of justice; yet she has made no acknowledgments, or expressed concern.

The next point which Mr. Meade has to notice is the intimation from the Bishop that his Lordship is informed by Mr. Daubeny that three or four letters, quoted by Mr. Meade in his “Reply” to the Bishop, “were not received by Mrs. Meade’s family, or heard of before they appeared in Mr. Meade’s book.” Mr. Meade informs the Bishop that the letters were not addressed to Mrs. Meade’s *family*. Can his Lordship prove that they were not received by those individuals to whom they were addressed? Or does Mr. Daubeny, as usual, answer for the whole family, dead as well as living?

But to convince the world of the iniquity of insinuations like the above, and to prevent a repetition of such, Mr. and Mrs. Meade have thought proper to make the annexed affidavits.

AFFIDAVITS.

"I THOMAS MEADE do solemnly swear that the letters quoted in pages 63, 72, and 75, of my "Reply" to the Bishop of Lincoln, are extracts from drafts of letters now in my possession, and in the hand-writing of my wife; that they have been in my possession upwards of 14 years; that they had previously been in the possession of my said wife, from whom I received them, and believed them to be drafts of letters written by her about 16 years ago, at the time and on the occasions, and for the persons and purposes, to which I have applied them in my book.

"THOMAS MEADE."

Sworn this 2d day of February, 1807, before me H. Sainsbury, one of his Majesty's justices of the peace for the County of Somerset.

"I CATHARINE MEADE do swear that the letters quoted by my husband in pages 63, 72, and 75, of his Reply to the Bishop of Lincoln, are extracts of drafts of letters which were written by me, about 16 years ago, for the purposes and persons, and at the times, and on the occasions, set forth in Mr. Meade's said reply.

"CATHARINE MEADE."

Sworn this 2d day of February, 1807, before me, H. Sainsbury, one of his Majesty's justices of the peace for the County of Somerset.

On the above-mentioned letters Mr. Meade must remark, that they are, for the most part, answers to, or called for, by a long letter of twelve folio pages, written by Mr. Daubeny to Miss Barnston in July 1790, and shewn by her, soon after, to her uncle and his family at Haddon. The original is in Mr. Meade's possession; and as Mr. Daubeny has shewn extreme caution in preserving papers, even before an idea of his views was entertained by any one else, it is not to be believed but that he either has the answer, or has destroyed it. Nor is it altogether clear, from the Bishop's paper, that Mr. Daubeny denies his having received the letter sent to him.

One of the letters* to Mrs. Barnston, and not the least important, was printed by Mr. Meade 12 or 13 years ago, and no surmise ever reached him of its genuineness being questioned. It was written by Mrs. Meade at the house of her uncle, Mr. Sawbridge; and "her relations there (as she tells her mother in that letter) were anxious that she should send it." She also tells her mother in it, "that she *had given an answer*† to Mr. Daubeny's *long* letter, at Weymouth." And in a *concurrent* letter (now in Mr. Meade's possession) to a third person, she transcribed that letter to her mother, describing it as one "*she had written and sent* to her mother from Haddon;" expressing her intention "of staying at her uncle's house, to see the effect of the letter," "especially as Mr. Daubeny's family was then at her mother's house in Bath;" "her sister Mary having informed her that his own house in the Crescent would not be finished for him within a month;" "and

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* See page 63.

† See that Answer, p. 70.

Nearly fourteen years had elapsed from the trial, when the Bishop of Lincoln stepped forward, boasting, in the teeth of a judge, a jury, witnesses, and records, that he had not only vindicated Mr. Daubeny, but convicted Mrs. Meade; thus overturning wholly the judgment of law, and the merits of the case. And although such vaunting might appear in the eyes of thinking men to be impotent and even contemptible, yet being accompanied with solemn misrepresentations, and with no inconsiderable share of address, Mr. Meade found it necessary to repel his attacks, either by having recourse again to a court of law, or by giving a full and final answer to this new compound of calumny, which his enemies seemed to have been for some years collecting. The latter mode being recommended by his most temperate friends, he was consequently obliged, thirteen years after he had answered a pamphlet by Mr. Daubeny, to labour once more through the mortifying task of selecting such papers as appeared most in point for the protection of his wife's character against the misstatements and perversions of the Bishop of Lincoln, of whose want of correctness Mr. Meade believes he has given sufficient examples. For whether his Lordship made assertions only on the authority of *one* party, or whether he made them without any enquiry, certain it is, that he does not appear to have sought for information where he ought to have looked for it.

on personal acquaintance, and from indignation at the injuries done to her, founded on their own knowledge. But the Bishop paid no respect to them, nor to any witness, evidence, or documents for Mrs. Meade. It required but a moderate share of understanding to perceive that his proceedings were not calculated to produce any good; but his Lordship was no more restrained by prudence, than by the *argumentum ad verecundiam*.

In aspersing Mrs. Meade, he constantly produces false premises, he calls them authorities, and thence forms his conclusions ; shewing at times a small part of the truth,*

* The reader of Mr. Meade's book must have seen these his assertions verified in many instances, as in page 145 to 148 ; and in page 286. On this last occasion, his Lordship, making use of a bold argument, even quotes Mr. Meade himself, as confessing, that what his wife deposed on oath, was false. But his Lordship suppressed, as usual, the passages which manifested the injustice of his reasoning. Mrs. Gunning had, in July 1790, carried Mr. Meade's proposals to Miss Barnston's mother, who replied, without expressing the smallest objection on her own account, " that a disagreement, of which she had just heard, between Mr. Meade and Mr. Daubeny, rendered it impossible for her to give her approbation ; but that her daughter was to judge and act for herself, being her own mistress."—See p. 27 to 29.

The Bishop, observing that this circumstance was referred to by Mr. Meade, catches at it as a proof that Mrs. Barnston *never gave her consent* ; although in the very paper which his Lordship was quoting, he had read that Mrs. Meade, having previously *spoken* to her mother alone in her chamber, had obtained her full and free consent, with her advice also " that she should go and " persuade Mr. Daubeny." Miss Barnston never asked her mother's consent but that once, and it was then fully and freely *given*. The words which passed between herself and her mother, were related by Mrs. Meade on oath ; and all through Mr. Meade's book, especially from page 50 to 90, collateral evidence in abundance will be seen of the fact. It is true, that no sooner was Mr. Daubeny informed by Mrs. Meade of that conversation between herself and her mother, than he went instantly to Mrs. Barnston, and had influence sufficient to put an end effectually to her complacency on the subject ; and by his threats to Miss Barnston, " of breaking up the " harmony of her family for ever," he induced her then to yield her independence, in hopes that time and reason might soften him. But disappointed in these hopes, and encouraged by her relations, she came with them a few months afterwards from Northamptonshire to Bath, to vindicate the freedom of her choice against Mr. Daubeny's influence, (see p. 33;) when a new and irresistible ground of opposition to her was prepared, by the circulation of

but that almost always misrepresented, whilst he passes over glaring facts, which discover his own mistakes.

The Bishop's party would defend his conduct on the ground "of his having been appointed an arbitrator." But a more unfortuate excuse could not be devised. For what must the world think of a man, who, assuming to be an arbitrator, made himself acquainted with, visited, and listened to *one* party, and even to the principal on *one side*, and *never saw the other*? Would such conduct be consistent with the character of a *judge*?

No! Mr. Meade was not such an ideot, as to submit his cause to be re-tried by any individual, after it had been decided in a court of law! The Bishop was never appointed an arbitrator by Mr. Meade. But even if his Lordship had been so appointed, the line of conduct which he pursued would have rendered bonds of arbitration void, though they had been executed under the sanction of the Court of King's-Bench.

Mr. Meade trusts that he has now done with this irksome subject; and lamenting, as he ever must do, the time which he has wasted upon it, he declares, that had he been earlier acquainted with the temper of his new assailant, the only answer to his black accusations should have been a short and direct denial of them. He would not have taken the trouble to write this book, which shews how impossible it is, by the clearest evidence, to con-

dark calumny against Mr. Meade.—See p. 142. With some management, and some suppressions, the Bishop throws a confusion over these facts; and then under the pretence of having a right to *form an opinion* on the subject, he assumes the privilege of attacking Mrs. Meade's character in the manner which has been already seen.

